

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Encouraging Message

NEW, if any, will fail to appreciate the emphasis which President Eisenhower placed on defence plans in his State of the Union message to Congress yesterday. It was clear notice to those nations which may continue to pursue aggressive designs and policies that the Free World, led by the United States, was determined to attain a militarily defensive position that would enable it to resist any sort of intimidation and repel any overt acts of aggression. And to implement this programme, Mr. Eisenhower advanced several significant proposals, one of the most important being that the United States should share with her allies "certain knowledge of the tactical use of nuclear weapons." The value of such an action to the Western world's defences has long been recognized elsewhere. Britain, in particular, is conscious of an exchange of information, even though it be of a limited nature. She has experimented with, and is now in a position to produce, tactical nuclear weapons, and the knowledge she possesses in this particular field could be as important to America's defences as the knowledge which the United States has gained in other directions for European allies. Congressional opposition to the President's proposal will be difficult to understand, for he makes no suggestion that America should give away any manufacturing secrets relating to atomic and fissionable weapons. It is clear, however, that the time has passed when Allies such as the United States and Britain, both possessing special and exclusive knowledge of nuclear weapons, should continue to work completely independently and to retain knowledge of their developments to themselves.

THE President's understanding of a new defence programme may seem to be at variance with his atomic energy "pool" scheme which he placed before the world when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly after the Bermuda conference. In truth, however, both are realistic. Unless and until international agreement has been reached on the whole question of atomic armaments, neither the United States nor the rest of the Western world can afford to relax their efforts to produce defensive weapons, quantitatively and in quality, that will at least match anything that is being stockpiled behind the Iron Curtain. The whole tenor of Mr. Eisenhower's message referring to defence plans was that they were imperative in order to deter aggression. He is convinced—and he is not alone in his convictions—that only if Russia and her associates are satisfied that the Free World is so well prepared that any act of aggression must meet with failure, will the Soviet Union recognize that international relations must be composed through negotiations. Thus his latest defence plans and his atomic energy "pool" proposal do not run at a tangent, but are parallel. And the rulers in the Kremlin, who are thorough realists, appreciate this as much as anybody, notwithstanding their. Meial propaganda which is automatically tuned to a denunciation of any policy or programme relating to international affairs which comes from the United States. The Free World, anxious for universal peace, will find encouragement in President Eisenhower's message.

US MAY RESUME KOREAN NEGOTIATIONS

Tyrannising Tiger Slain

Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 8. An eight-foot tiger which tyrannised Malay villages in Selangor State not far from Kuala Lumpur is dead—and a Chinese merchant has bought its skin for about £20. Two Malay hunters near Rawang, Selangor, climbed a tree near a village to shoot the beast while it was devouring a will boar. This tiger, which was possibly hunting in company with its mate, has been killing livestock round a number of Malay villages in recent weeks.—Reuter.

Barbara's Unfortunate Accident

New York, Jan. 7. Barbara Hutton broke her left ankle in a bathroom fall, forcing a postponement of her honeymoon with her fifth husband, Porfirio Rubirosa. The time store heiress' secretary, Margaret Latimer, said Miss Hutton "slipped in the bathroom" of her 39th floor Hotel Pierre suite on Monday. The "poor little rich girl" was bothered at the time by her illness which she had since her wedding on December 30. Miss Latimer said Mrs. Rubirosa's Dominican diplomat husband had remained at her side, seeing only a few close friends and refusing telephone calls.

SIX WEEKS TO HEAL. Her doctor said the fracture would take at least six weeks to heal. The secretary described Mrs. Rubirosa as "fairly well" this morning, although the chest condition "persists". The heiress spent several weeks at a hospital here shortly before her marriage, because of the "recurrent" ailment. The couple had planned to leave on Saturday for a honeymoon in Palm Beach, Florida, and the Dominican Republic, but they cancelled their plans when Mrs. Rubirosa was forced to bed with a 102-degree temperature. After their honeymoon, the Rubirosas planned to go to Paris, where he is Minister Plenipotentiary at the Dominican Embassy.—United Press.

ADMIRAL HAS SECRET TALKS

London, Jan. 8. Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Lamb, Commander-in-Chief Far Eastern Station, left London by air last night for Singapore at the end of four days' consultation at the Admiralty with the First Sea Lord. Before leaving he said: "It was not a routine conference. I flew to discuss a particular subject but I cannot say what it was. Obviously it was important, as I have spent four days in London." He said it had nothing to do with naval strength in the Far East, and that there would be no bulletin on the conference.—Reuter.

Applegate "Might Have Been Seized By Pirates" Say Red Reporters

Communist correspondents Alan Winnington and Wilfred Burchett today denied that the Chinese Communists captured the American newsmen Richard Applegate and Don Dixon off Hongkong last March.

Winnington, a Red reporter for the London Daily Worker, said that Applegate, Dixon and merchant Marine Capt. Ben Kraemer might have been seized by "pirates". But both Winnington and Burchett, representative of the Paris newspaper L'Humanite, said reports that the three men were captured by the Communists were "just an American news story."

It was the first Communist denial that the men had been taken into custody by a Red gunboat as they sailed off Hongkong in Applegate's pleasure boat.

Winnington and Burchett said there has been no word of the three missing men in Chinese mainland newspapers despite persistent reports that they were in Canton or Peking.

and would be tried on trumped-up espionage charges. The Communist newsmen knew Applegate and Dixon when both Americans were assigned to cover the Panmunjom truce talks. The US State Department has tried unsuccessfully to learn the whereabouts of the three men ever since they disappeared.

Subject Under Consideration Says Dulles

Washington, Jan. 7. The Secretary of State, Mr. John Foster Dulles, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this afternoon that the United States is considering resuming negotiations looking toward a political conference on Korea.

The State Secretary also told the Committee he believes that all non-repatriated prisoners of war will be released on Jan. 22 as required by the armistice agreement. He said he does not think the Communists plan to resume hostilities.

Mr. Dulles met with the Committee for two and a half hours today to describe the situation in the world, and international developments which have occurred since Congress adjourned last August.

Committee chairman Alexander Wiley later issued a statement to reporters, in which he reported that Mr. Dulles said "it is the policy of the United States to press the Soviet Union for solutions to problems which are causing international tensions."

Sen. Wiley said Mr. Dulles told the Committee, "The United States is now exploring whether it would be worthwhile to resume negotiations over the composition, location and date of the political conference envisioned by the armistice."

The Secretary of State also told the Committee, according to Sen. Wiley, that the number of United States troops in Korea is being reduced because the size of the force there is "excessive by any standard."

"Since the armistice," Sen. Wiley's statement said, "additional Korean troops have been trained and, since the armistice agreement prohibits a net increase in strength, those Korean troops can be equipped only if United States troops are withdrawn and their equipment left behind."

Regarding Indo-China, he reportedly said, the buildup of local troops is moving ahead rapidly with the United States assuming "very heavy costs."

Regarding Europe proper, Mr. Dulles said that the NATO is "in good shape," and expressed hope that the EDC treaty will be ratified.

Sen. Wiley said he did not, however, make any estimation of what the chances are in that respect.

Sen. Wiley's statement said, "The great trouble is that there is a splendid superstructure rearing on a foundation which is weak because there is no provision for German participation."

Sold "Happiness" Powder

Barcelona, Jan. 7. Antonio Barbera Vinas, 38, was arrested here today charged with selling "Happiness Powder" to the public. Barbera prescribed his powders for those who wish to be happy—at 150 pesetas (30 shillings sterling) a packet. The police were sceptical.—Reuter.

PREPARING A PEACE TREATY

Move By E. German Cabinet

Berlin, Jan. 7. The East German Cabinet today set up a "unity commission" to prepare a peace treaty for Germany and German reunification, according to a Cabinet communique published by the East German news agency, ADN, tonight.

The communique said Herr Hans Loch, Deputy Premier and Finance Minister, was appointed Chairman of the Commission.

Professor Albert Norden, former press chief of the Government's dissolved Information Office, was appointed Secretary, and given the rank of a State Secretary.

The Cabinet also announced that the Government Office for Reparations was dissolved after its head, Herr B. Weinberger, reported its task had been completed following the ending of reparations to the Soviet Union on January 1, 1954.

This was one of the concessions the Soviet Union made to East Germany to strengthen her "new course" economic policy after Soviet-East German negotiations at Moscow last August.

The Cabinet session was attended by 21 poets, actors, writers, university professors, musicians and architects who discussed with the Ministers the "order about the formation of the East German Democratic Republic," ADN said. There has been no Culture Ministry in East Germany before.—Reuter.

Tin Heiress Becomes Mrs Goldsmith

Edinburgh, Jan. 7. Love found a way today to end the troubles of Bolivian tin heiress, 18-year-old Isabella Patino, and her 20-year-old English lover, Jimmy Goldsmith, when in Kello they became Mr and Mrs Goldsmith. The father of the new Mrs Goldsmith, Don Antenor Patino, today had withdrawn his opposition to the marriage in a dramatic announcement in an Edinburgh court in which he had attempted to uphold a ban on the wedding. Tonight, a bright and radiant Jimmy Goldsmith and his bride arrived here and told the press that they were both very happy and glad that the whole thing was over. Mr and Mrs Goldsmith booked for the night at an Edinburgh hotel. After dinner there, they went out to spend the evening with friends.—France-Press.

Chinese Diplomats Refuse, Then Submit To Health Inspection

Singapore, Jan. 8. Seven Communist Chinese diplomats, including the Ambassador to Burma, General Hay Chung-shien, yesterday reluctantly submitted their health certificates after a boarding officer threatened to send the ship to quarantine. The group arrived from Burma on their way to China by the steamer Anshun. Immigration and health officials boarded her as soon as she entered port limits.

The Chinese diplomats, who were in their cabin, refused to come out with their medical certificates when requested by the boarding Health Officer to do so. They claimed diplomatic immunity. The health official then insisted the diplomats present themselves personally with their documents and threatened to put the ship in quarantine unless they complied. The whole group then came out with their health papers. Dr K. Sivagnanam, commenting on the incident, said everybody entering the Colony, whether possessing diplomatic privileges or not, had to present themselves in person to the health authorities.

HAD TROUBLE BEFORE "We insist very strongly on that because we have had this sort of trouble with these people before." Dr Sivagnanam disclosed that his Department had asked the agents of all shipping lines carrying Communist Chinese diplomats to obtain an undertaking in writing from them that they would appear with their health papers. One of the ship's officers, a veteran of many trips to Communist Chinese ports, said: "When we are in China we have to watch every step we take because the slightest slip could mean us being thrown behind bars. Yet these chaps can come here and throw their weight around like us and get away with it."—United Press.

Fire Victims Relief Fund

Including £100 Sterling, the fire relief fund at 10 o'clock this morning totalled \$547,261. The fund closes at noon tomorrow (Saturday). Cheques should be crossed and made payable to "The Shumshulpo Fire Victims Relief Fund." Local Staff of the Hong Kong Electric Co., Ltd. 335.00 The Hong Kong Electric Co., Ltd. 2,500.00 A. H. Veltman 250.00 Queen's College 1,300.00 Merry Helpers Play-mates Club 10.00 Mr & Mrs O'Neill 4.70 Wheelock Marden & Co., Ltd. 7,000.00 Asia Navigation, Yantai Finance Hongkong Realty, Wheelock Marden & Stewart, Commercial Investment and Shewan Tomes 3,000.00 Textile Corporation of Hongkong Ltd. 200.00 The Girls of Beilites Public School 25.00 Iris & Lew 25.00 Previously acknowledged: \$531,037.00; Sterling £100. Total at 10 a.m. today: \$546,001.70; Sterling £100.

Western Europe Cautiously Welcomes Eisenhower Speech

London, Jan. 7. Western Europe cautiously hailed President Eisenhower's State of the Union message tonight as a sign of continued American leadership and determination for peace.

The first unofficial reactions began to come from London and Paris, the capitals of the United States' two chief allies, almost as soon as Mr. Eisenhower spoke.

Neither the Foreign Office nor the Quai d'Orsay considered it proper to comment publicly on the speech by the head of a foreign state, but officials privately generally greeted the speech with warmth tempered by a few reservations.

British officials absolutely agreed with Mr. Eisenhower that the West now holds the initiative in the cold war with Russia. They believed that the growing Western strength has led Russia to agree to the Berlin conference later this month on which Western European opinion places so much hope. And they expressed the fervent hope that Britain, France and the United States can stick together and maintain a flexible, adventurous policy in the face of any Soviet attempts to split them there.

Above all, governmental opinion both in London and Paris welcomed Mr. Eisenhower's determination to push his atom-for-peace plan. And they were reassured by his assurance and much talk of a business slump of the Eisenhower Administration's determination to remain prepared on the economic front as well as the military.

FIRST FORMAL STEP

British officials particularly welcomed Mr. Eisenhower's first formal step to get approval from Congress for sharing more atomic information. This was agreed between Mr. Eisenhower and the Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, at Bermuda and the Government regarded it as a small, but nevertheless, important step back towards the wartime atomic partnership. Officials in the two capitals made the following other points:

1.—Mr. Eisenhower indicated that more emphasis would be placed on atomic and other weapons. In Paris, officials said that this was an "acceptance" of the French plan of smaller mobile forces backed by atom power. In London, officials recalled that Sir Winston decided two years ago to concentrate on more modern weapons.

2.—Mr. Eisenhower promised promptly to strike back at any new aggression in Korea. Britain and France are on record for that, too, but their predominant advice to America is usually caution.

3.—Officials in Paris expressed satisfaction that Mr. Eisenhower did not repeat American "threats" to France to ratify the European Army Treaty or else, although he did favour it.

4.—British officials expressed satisfaction that Mr. Eisenhower spoke of a treaty system of payments and trade to allow America's allies to earn their

own way. To Britain this means a lowering of high American tariff walls and trade barriers.

5.—French officials noted the important part Mr. Eisenhower gave to Indo-China in this speech and his request for more assistance to France in the fight there.

And the basic reaction of both British and French was added relief that Mr. Eisenhower again emphasised America's international foreign policy and determination to stand by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation "as far ahead as we can see."—United Press.

2 Unscheduled Stops

Pohmerston, New Zealand, Jan. 7.

Two "whistle stops" which were not on the schedule, stopped the train bringing Queen Elizabeth and her husband to this island city, from the East coast today.

One was when the train driver stopped and set his alarm clock to get a signal changed in the midst of the open country. The other was when he dropped the signalling key which admitted the red and white Royal train to the next section of the single line.

Railway men crawled about for two minutes before finding it while the Queen and the Duke waved to crowds alongside the train.

When they reached here, the Queen and the Duke had a civil welcome and a bouquet from the Mayor's six-year-old daughter. But the Queen had to step forward and take the flowers herself, for when Robyn went down in her cursive, she stayed down.—Reuter.

SHIP BEACHED

Casablanca, Jan. 7. A small Italian ship with a highly inflammable cargo caught fire this morning in Casablanca harbour. She was towed out of the harbour and beached and some of the crew of 15 was hurt. Her cargo included sulphuric acid and butane gas.—Reuter.

Much-Wanted Man Arrested

Washington, Jan. 7. The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced tonight that its agents near Dixon, California, had arrested Chester Lee Davenport, 31-year-old cattle rustler who was placed on its list of the 10 most wanted men only yesterday.

Davenport, wanted since his escape from an Oklahoma penitentiary last July, was taken into custody as he was sitting down to milk a cow at the dairy farm where he had worked since about the time of his escape. He readily admitted his true identity. He was living under the name of Floyd Tucker at the Dairy Farm with his wife and child.—United Press.

Beria's Last Request Report

Vatican City, Jan. 7. The Vatican Radio today broadcast an unconfirmed report from Vienna saying that Communist leader Lavrenti Beria had asked to receive the Sacrament of the Church just before being shot. A Vienna authoritative Catholic source said tonight that they had no information to confirm the Vatican Radio's report.—United Press.

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"RETURN OF THE PEARL"

In Color

Starring: LEE MEE • WONG HO

Economic Crisis In Japan Predicted

INFLATIONARY SPIRAL PICKING UP SPEED

Tokyo, Jan. 7.

Well-informed observers tonight predicted a major economic crisis in Japan shortly unless the Government takes drastic measures to remedy the situation.

Government officials, including the Prime Minister, Shigeru Yoshida, and the Bank of Japan Governor, Hisato Ichimada, discount the possibility of a business collapse and claim that the financial situation is being kept under control.

All quarters agree, however, that Japan's economy will be too shaky this year to permit Japanese rearmament at the pace desired by the United States.

The economic danger signals already are obvious to all.

Inflation has eaten away 10 per cent of the value of the yen in the past eight months, and the inflationary spiral is picking up speed.

Despite the need for checking this trend, the Government bowed to pressure and granted blanket wage increases and large year-end bonuses to Government employees, setting a free-spending example that all business concerns felt impelled to follow.

Serious storm and flood damage to the rice crop, plus exaggeration of the extent of the crop loss, boosted the price of this staple during the Autumn and carried all prices upward.

To meet the inflationary threat the Government promises a balanced budget for the fiscal year beginning next April and tightening of controls on bank loans. At the same time, however, there is official talk of tax reductions.

LOANS FOR LUXURIES

Inflation is eating away at Japan's lifeblood—foreign trade. Japanese goods are being priced out of competition in world markets, partly because of the general domestic price rise, partly because the Government and Bank of Japan have not forced the flow of capital into modernizing industrial production, economists point out. Bank loans have gone into construction of hotels, restaurants, office buildings and other semi-luxuries.

The crutch of American military spending in Japan to support the Korean war effort and United States defence forces here is being whittled away by the armistice. Only this windfall has kept Japan's foreign exchange balance in the black the last two years. It will not be enough this year.

The Bank of Japan predicts a forecast deficit of more than \$200,000,000 this year, and the drop in American spending here accounts for only about one-fourth of the shift from last year's favourable balance.

The biggest nightmares for Japan as the critical year is here are that its exports are not expanding and its imports needs will be higher than ever in 1954.

RICE CROP FAILURE

The rice crop failure will force importation of about 1,500,000 tons of grain early this year, the Government has indicated. This unexpected drain on foreign exchange will offset the savings of the most austere import-limitation policy.

The prospect for Japan's purely domestic economy is no brighter. Many foreign economists believe that a complete financial crash would result from any unforeseen shock. Japanese generally dismiss the foreign analysis as "over cautious."

Unlimited, reckless bank loans have produced miracles in rebuilding Japan from devastation after the war. Much of the reconstruction has been in superficial, non-productive fields, but industries also have made a fresh start on loans.

Now, every major bank except one is reported to have

Queen Accepts Song Tribute

Sydney, Jan. 7.
The Queen has accepted a song, "God Bless Elizabeth," which two Sydney composers have written as a coronation tribute.
Mr. John Sewell, who wrote the music, and Mr. Ivor Maurice, who wrote the words, received an official letter from Buckingham Palace telling them of the Queen's decision.—China Mail Special.

Swiss Climbers To Go To Himalayas In 1954

Geneva, Jan. 7.
A new Swiss expedition to the Himalayas will take place in 1954, the Geneva newspaper Tribune du Geneve said here today.

The expedition, led by the guide, Raymond Lambert, will include a group of Geneva mountaineers, several mountaineers from Vaud canton, and two foreigners, the newspaper said. It will attempt to climb a peak "over 8,000 metres high."

The members of this expedition are already preparing their departure, and they will leave during the coming Summer.—France-Press.

"Courtesy Pays" Lesson In Kuala Lumpur

Kuala Lumpur, Jan. 7.
British police officers took over a traffic police here for a week to drive home the lesson that courtesy pays.

The British paired off in motorcycle patrols with the normal Asian "traffic cops" and the police prepared to give help and polite warnings to all offenders, European or Asian.

"Some individuals have an exaggerated sense of their own importance," the officers were warned. "The more you seek to give fair play to the public, the more the public will co-operate with you."—Reuter.

Wanted—Men Who Understand Latin Temperament

Washington, Jan. 7.
Democratic Senator Dennis Chavez today asked the Defense and State Departments to select contractors for the Spanish military assistance programme who had had experience in dealing with the "Latin temperament."

He said the United States had made mistakes in Spanish-speaking countries of the Western hemisphere in selecting people who had proved to be "incompatible" with Latin temperament.

Mr. Chavez said in a statement that he had also suggested to the Senate Appropriations Committee that it would be better to delay the start of the defence programme in Spain than to "make an initial mistake."—United Press.

Enough Men For W. Germany's 12 Divisions

Brussels, Jan. 7.
General Eugene de Greef, Belgian Defense Minister, today said "there was real integration" between the British Royal Air Force and the combined air forces of the six nations of the proposed European Defence Community (E.D.C.).

General de Greef was addressing a secret joint session of the Defence and Foreign Affairs Committees of the upper house. He outlined plans for an exchange of military personnel between Britain and E.D.C. as well as the organisation of joint manoeuvres.

The Minister declared that by the beginning of this year, 10,000 Germans had volunteered to enlist in the European Army. He said enough men were available to form West Germany's 12 divisions proposed under European army plans.—Reuter.

TRAINING VIETNAM BATTALIONS TO BEAT THE REBELS

(By A Reuter's Correspondent)

Hanoi, Indo-China, Jan. 7.

The new light battalions of the Vietnamese Army, designed to turn peasants into soldiers in a few months with United States arms, have taken a beating in their first clashes with the Communist-led Vietminh rebels.

But they are training with enthusiasm to make sure that the next round goes to them. Just as important, their enthusiasm has spread to civilians in some areas where they operate.

Such enthusiasm is a new factor. In Indo-China, most of these who do not support the rebels are either neutral, or have a "couldn't care less" attitude. The unco-operative mood of so many of the Vietnamese is the greatest weakness of the French here, and the greatest strength of the Vietminh.

It only the light battalions could spread enthusiasm for their cause throughout the country, the Indo-China war could be won in weeks.

The light battalions were designed to meet the military problem of Indo-China. Here, the French Union Army with its magnificent esprit de corps can conquer as much territory as it pleases. But it can seldom hold one square kilometre beyond the range of its rifles.

In nearly every village, behind as well as beyond the French lines, the Vietminh rule by propaganda and terror.

When the French Army advances, it might as well be ploughing a lake. The furrows open before the troops and their tanks—and close again immediately they have passed.

The light battalions have to keep the furrows open. By the end of 1954, it is hoped to have 108 of them, consisting of 70,000 young, conscript peasants. Gradually, they are taking over the work of policing areas cleared of Vietminh forces, and stamping out rebel activities.

Their aim is to give the Vietnamese peasant courage to resist Vietminh demands for rice and recruits, and enthusiasm to fight the rebels.

Some military observers here think that companies have far too many automatic weapons, for if the young troops fire too wildly, they can use up all the ammunition they can carry in three or four minutes. Then they would be defenceless.

But their greatest weakness is the shortage of suitable officers. The Vietnamese Army, still only two years old, has provided the senior officers. But 108 battalions, each of 640 men, require far more officers than can come from this source in a few months. So junior officers must themselves be trained with only a few months' training.

The But Chu district is the ideal nursery for an experiment in encouraging peasants to resist propaganda and terrorism, for about 300,000 of the 800,000 are exiled Catholics and fervently anti-Communist.

ROXY & BROADWAY

The ROXY TOWN BOOKING OFFICE has removed temporarily to Room 108, National Bank Bldg., 1st Floor. Telephone 20946 (From 12 Noon to 5.00 p.m.)

3rd TRIUMPHANT WEEK!

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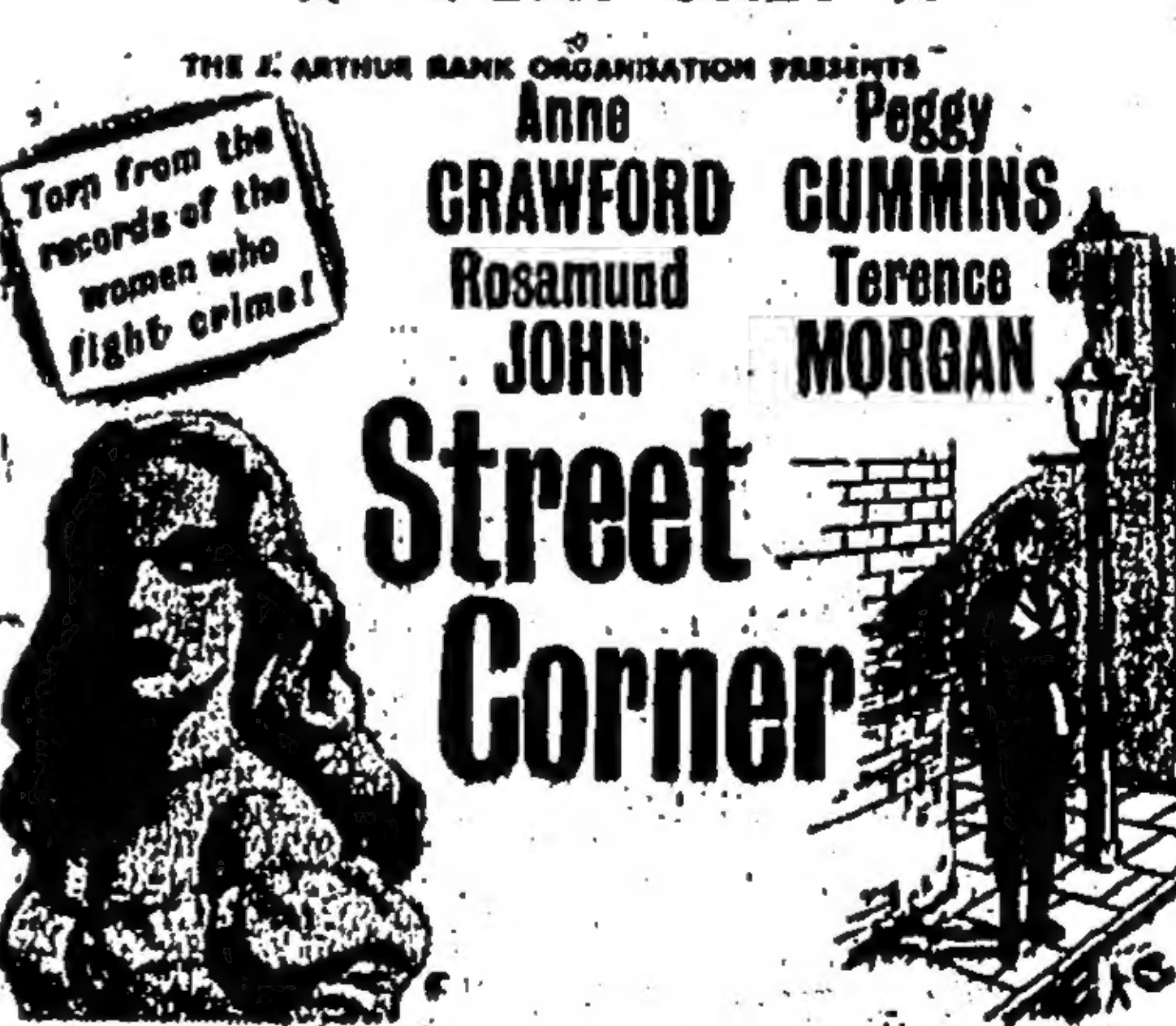
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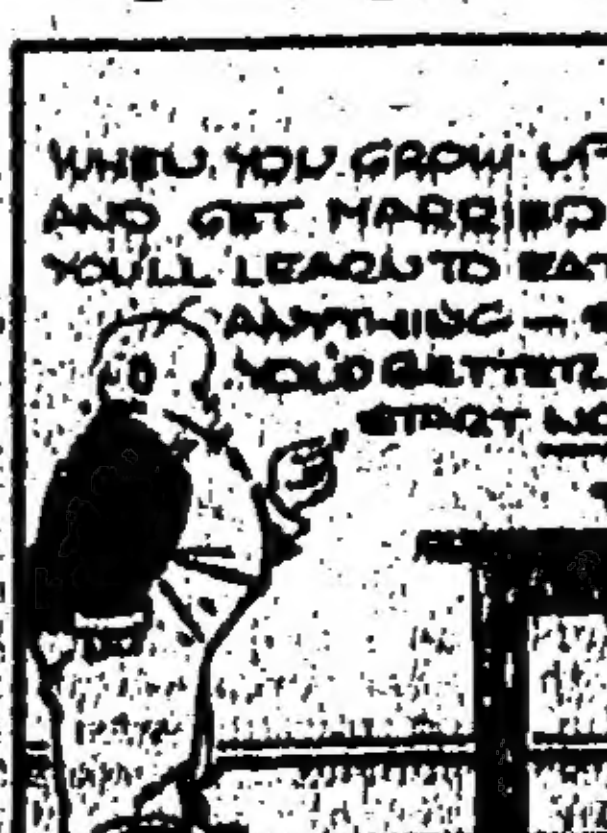
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Randolph Scott in "THUNDER OVER THE PLAINS" In Warner Color

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Special Sector May Be Created

New Premier Sought For Italy

Rome, Jan. 7. Several possible names for a successor to the outgoing Premier Giuseppe Pella were mentioned tonight in Rome's political circles after the first day of consultations by the President of the Italian Republic, Signor Luigi Einaudi.

While some observers thought that Signor Pella might succeed himself as Premier supported by the Christian Democratic group and the monarchists, one of the names most frequently mentioned as likely Premier was that of the outgoing Minister of the Interior, Signor Fanfani, who was said to have caused the crisis by opposing the appointment of a new Minister of Agriculture.

The possibility of Signor Gaspari, the President of the Assembly, being named Premier was also mentioned. It was believed, however, that the former Premier, Alcide De Gasperi, was not likely to be a candidate for the Premiership. — France-Press.

Burma Accused Of Bombing Thai Village

Bangkok, Jan. 7. Field Marshal Pibul Songgram, the Prime Minister of Thailand, told parliament today that the Burmese government had acknowledged the responsibility for the bombing of a Thai village last November and early December, during which three Thais were killed and three wounded.

In reply to a question, Field Marshal Songgram said that the bombing was inadvertently made by the Burmese air force during a raid against the Chinese Nationalist guerrillas. The village was located in the northern province of Mueang-sorn.

Earlier, the Burmese government had refused to consider a Thai protest against the bombings, but admitted the charge later, when Thai investigators proved that the bombs were manufactured in Burma. — France-Press.

CZECH MINISTER DEAD

Vienna, Jan. 7. Radio Prague today announced the death of the Czech Deputy Minister of Transport, Karel Lukavsky.

He was described as one of the founders of the Czech Communist Party. — France-Press.

A British Crossword Puzzle



- ACROSS
- Requests (4).
 - Clamorous (5).
 - Take notice (4).
 - Frees (4).
 - Fatty (7).
 - Blockhead (4).
 - Blows (6).
 - Patched (4).
 - Perfect (5).
 - Minister (5).
 - Alas! (3).
 - Abductors (5).
 - Treat medically (4).
 - Hopellessness (7).
 - Foes (3).
 - Veiled (4).
 - Strip of leather (5).
 - Active (3).

- DOWN
- Scold (5).
 - Get ready (7).
 - Hooter (5).
 - Outthrust (4).
 - Timber (4).
 - Accustomed (4).
 - Walls to include (5).
 - Laffy (4).
 - Plagues (5).
 - Greedy (4).
 - Mountains (4).
 - Tyrants (7).
 - Extinct (4).
 - Leifer (5).
 - Clutch (5).
 - Monster (4).
 - Instigates (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD.—Across: 1 Spread; 7 Rapt; 9 Dense; 10 Pione; 11 Pond; 13 Mediation; 15 Sharp; 16 Less; 18 Possession; 20 Tall; 21 Iron; 23 East; 25 With; 27 Silver; Down: 2 Pined; 3 Event; 4 Deputy; 5 Spruce; 6 Capt; 8 Anona; 12 Drain; 13 Mule; 14 Insolent; 17 Spirit; 18 Assets; 20 Shell; 21 Lame; 22 Alcy.

For 4-Power Talks

POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO SOVIET OBJECTION TO WESTERN PROPOSAL

A special international sector may be created in Berlin for the Big-Four talks which are scheduled to begin on January 25. France-Press reported last night.

This was suggested as a means of overcoming Soviet opposition to holding the talks in the former Control Commission building in the U.S. Zone.

The four-power representatives met yesterday to prepare for the conference and, at the end of the discussions, there was no agreement on the choice of a venue, added France-Press.

Berlin, Jan. 7. The four-power representatives met last night to discuss their first preparatory talks on the Berlin Big Four Foreign Ministers' conference after nearly seven hours.

The four-power representatives, "after an exchange of views," decided to resume their discussions on Saturday at the Soviet headquarters in Berlin.

A joint communique announcing this said the three Western commanders had discussed with Mr. S. A. Dengin, Soviet High Commission representative in Berlin, the choice of a site for the conference and technical arrangements.

Allied officials declined to say anything on the progress of the talks.

Although tight secrecy was maintained on last night's talks, there was unofficial optimism about the chances of an early agreement on a site for the Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Stole \$12,215 To buy gifts For her husband

Madison, Wisconsin, Jan. 7. Diane Nelson, 20, was placed on five years' probation today for stealing \$12,215 from her former employer to shower her married boyfriend with gifts.

"I make no recommendation, but I feel that five years in the State Prison would be a miscarriage of justice," the District Attorney, Richard Bardwell, told Circuit Judge Herman Sachtlein.

Judge Sachtlein suspended a five-to-six-year sentence. He said Diane Nelson was "like pretty in the hands of" Albert Hanson, 22, who received the presents bought with the stolen money.

Hanson was sentenced to two to eight years in the Green Bay State Reformatory after Diane testified that he forced her to steal. — United Press.

The idea gained ground that the Soviet Union might after all agree to the Allied Control Authority building in West Berlin suggested by the West, though the possibility of some meetings in East Berlin was not wholly excluded. — Reuter.

LONDON DISCUSSIONS

London, Jan. 7. The British inner cabinet discussed the world situation on the eve of the Berlin conference, when it met here today for the first time this year, it was learned from reliable sources.

Among the subjects included in the global review were the Soviet-American atomic discussions and the political preparations for the Berlin conference. Although the Foreign Office stated that no preliminary meeting of the three Western foreign ministers had so far been arranged before January 25, Whitehall circles considered it possible that these ministers might deem it useful, and even necessary, to hold a meeting before seeing Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

These circles said that the three Western governments were already in agreement on the broad lines of their common attitude to the forthcoming conference.

The Western attitude to the Berlin conference is that it has only one objective, namely, the discussion of the German and Austrian problems, these circles added.

It was to facilitate this meeting and to put an end to the interminable correspondence that the Western powers agreed to listen to Mr. Molotov's point of view on other questions, such as the convening of a five-power conference with the participation of Communist China without admitting that they were prepared to discuss this question.

NO COMPROMISE

It was considered here, however, that the three Western powers were ready to listen and take into consideration any Soviet suggestions relating to European security. One thing appeared clear on the question of guarantees—that the Western powers had firmly decided to reject any proposal for the creation of a European security organization which did not include the participation of the United States. Whitehall circles said that would be the end of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and that such a proposal would be entirely unacceptable.

Concerning the German question, these circles said that the Western powers would not tolerate any compromise on the point that really free elections throughout the whole of Germany must precede the setting up of a central German government. — France-Press.

Contempt Charge Against Defiant Witness

Washington, Jan. 7. Senator Joseph McCarthy's Senate investigating sub-committee voted today to seek contempt prosecution against a witness who refused to testify on the advice of Dr. Albert Einstein.

The sub-committee also recommended contempt citations against two other witnesses and urged the Justice Department to prosecute another for perjury.

The contempt actions, which must now go to the full government Operations Committee for approval, involve Albert Einstein, Corliss Lamont, and Abraham Unger.

In the meantime, the sub-committee expected "quite a few" contempt citations against witnesses who defied the House Un-American Activities Committee last year. — United Press.

American Films Through Soviet Eyes

Moscow, Jan. 7. A Soviet Professor, pleased to be home again after a trip to Canada, reported that the American films he saw while away were a "nightmare".

Professor M. Sergievsky, writing in "Komsomol Pravda," gave this description of the cinema aboard the trans-Atlantic liner in which he travelled: "The films have different titles but they are all the same. A sheriff catches a bandit. He sets about the man and beats him up. But then it suddenly becomes clear that this man is also after a bandit. So they get off together on their search. Indians appear on the scene. The brawl starts again."

"The sheriff's companion perishes. The criminal's girl friend falls in love with the sheriff and the sheriff with her. These films are difficult to recount as there is neither plot nor sense in them."

Professor Sergievsky added that many shocking things are seen in the West. By the walls of Notre Dame in Paris, he saw a "dashing fellow in short trousers kissing a girl in public." On board the liner, "not only the women but men as well changed their attire several times."

After the "priests, businessmen, soldiers and the girls dancing in bathing costumes," he concluded, Moscow, "on the long-awaited day of our homecoming," was "calm and businesslike." — China Mail Special.

India Denies Charge By Mohammed Ali

New Delhi, Jan. 7. An official spokesman for the Indian government categorically denied the charge reported to have been made by Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammed Ali that India had refused Pakistan her share of military equipment at the time of the partition.

Retracting the whole case, the spokesman said that Pakistan went back on the tripartite agreement signed by the Indian, British and Pakistani Governments soon after the partition by refusing to make payments to India for stores already supplied, even after accepting liabilities and promising to pay at the Inter-dominion conference of December, 1948.

The spokesman concluded that India had thus been forced to terminate further supplies in order to protect her financial interests, but that she had offered to resume supplies as soon as Pakistan had her shares, and promised to pay the future supplies. — France-Press.

"Happy This Sorry Mess Is Resolved"

New York, Jan. 7. Showman Billy Rose will pay his estranged wife, Eleanor Hoot, \$30,000 a year alimony, the Supreme Court Justice, James McCall, announced today.

The separation settlement approved by Judge McCall also includes provision for the payment of \$300,000 additionally in 10 yearly installments of \$30,000 each.

The agreement specified that the alimony should be paid only if they are no longer married and only if they are not remarried. The settlement placed down the burden on the husband. — United Press.



Two 4 ft. dolls are presented to Princess Margaret, a clown and a monkey, by Mrs. Pauline Schumann, wife of the Queen's Danish horse trainer, (center), Albert Schumann. The Princess paid a visit to a special charity performance of Tom Arnold's Circus at Harringay, London. — Express Photo.

Applause For Ike's Anti-Red Move

Washington, Jan. 7. President Eisenhower's surprise proposal that convicted American Communist conspirators be deprived of citizenship won thunderous approval today from members of Congress.

While other points in President Eisenhower's message drew praise and criticism from both Democrats and Republicans, his "de-citizenship" proposal caused Senators and Congressmen to rock the House chamber with cheers and applause.

Mr. Eisenhower recommended that Congress pass a law stripping US citizenship from American Communists convicted of conspiring in the future to teach and advocate the overthrow of the government.

Vice-President Richard M. Nixon predicted Congress will approve Mr. Eisenhower's recommendation. He said it would show the world that Communists are disloyal.

"It will have a great moral effect, both at home and abroad, in pointing up clearly and unequivocally the true nature of the international Communist movement," Mr. Nixon said. "I say that," he continued, "having travelled abroad and recognized the confusion that exists in foreign countries as to the nature of the Communist movement. Some people there say, 'What's wrong with being a Communist?'"

FOREIGN LOYALTY

"By making the matter of law the penalty for belonging to the Communist movement, it points up the real crime involved: loyalty to a foreign power."

Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy (Republican, Wisconsin) thought it a "very good idea," and Sen. Pat McCarran (Democrat, Nevada) said the recommendation is "all right—if it can be worked out."

Mr. Nixon thought it could. He said the penalties would be more rigorous than the loss of citizenship rights, such as voting, that is involved in felony conviction.

Minor Gold Rush In Australia

Melbourne, Jan. 7. A minor gold rush began at Wedderburn, 150 miles to the north-west of Melbourne, after two brothers digging a hole for a sewerage system unearthed a nugget worth £260 (£248).

State Parliamentary member K. H. Turnbull, on whose property the nugget was found, took out a miner's licence.

He said any finds would be shared equally with the brothers, Mervyn and Ron Webb, who have now forsaken the sewer to dig on Mr. Turnbull's estate. — Reuter.

OLSO - HONGKONG AIR LINE

Oslo, Jan. 7. The Norwegian ship-owner, Livvig Braathen, who owns the SAFE airline company, has asked the Norwegian authorities for the concession for five years of an Oslo-Hongkong route with several intermediate stops.

This line, which would function with rights once a week, will use planes specially designed for goods transportation, but which can also carry from eight to 12 passengers.

This line would replace that of the Swedish one of this kind, which was taken over by the British, when the concession for the line expired on March 1.

3-YEAR NATIONAL SERVICE PLAN FOR SINGAPORE

Singapore, Jan. 7. Britain's military bastion in the Far East, the Colony of Singapore, will soon have its own force of territorials, called up under a unique national service plan and paid for by the Colonial Treasury.

A selected number of youths, of British or Federation of Malayan nationality, who are physically fit and have reached adequate economic standards, will be called up each year for three years of part-time military training designed to turn out a capable force of citizen-soldiers.

When their three-year period is over, the trained soldiers will be placed on reserve, ready to be called back to the colours if any emergency is declared to be threatening the Colony.

The Singapore Military Forces, as they are known, may be required to go anywhere for the defence of the Colony. And, a provision in the recently passed Bill which established the force says that, during any such emergency, they may be assigned to the command of any officer of the Queen's regular forces.

Singapore's soldiers of the Queen will be a mixed bunch, reflecting the complicated racial background of the Colony's peoples. The call-up will take in Chinese, Malay, Indian, and European youths, regardless of their origins, so long as they fill the qualifications.

This will smooth out one irregularity always noticed in Volunteer forces here, when the number of Malays who turn up always outnumbered that of any other group. This has been particularly so on the mainland of the Federation of Malaya where the Federation's regiments are nearly all Malay.

TURNED DOWN For this reason, promising young Chinese who would be suitable as officers have had to be turned down for service, since the proportion of Chinese officers must be the same as that of Chinese other ranks.

Colonial defence experts estimate that about 8,000 youths a year will fit the military service qualifications. Practically, the Bill proposes that only about 2,000 of these shall be called up and that half this figure shall go into the Civil Defence forces for less vigorous training than their fellows.

Military trainees will begin their careers with a programme of night and week-end parades. Night training will not exceed 20 hours a month and one week-end parade of not more than 48 hours. The recruits will attend camp for not more than 10 days each year.

TRAINED BY REGULARS

Training will be in the hands of volunteers and a very small force of regular British army non-commissioned and commissioned officers. The Volunteers will come from Singapore's famous Volunteer Corps which has been turning out first-class soldiers for about 100 years.

The Colonial Secretary of Defence, Mr. H. N. Davis, estimates that the intake proposed would staff the equivalent of an infantry battalion each year so that at the end of three years, there would be available a brigade of troops.

Volunteers and some of the conscripts would also be allocated to specialist units such as artillery, signals and armoured car regiments so as to make the brigade a self-contained force.

On paper, after the scheme has been in operation for ten years, Singapore should have almost a division of trained troops on the colour strength and in the reserve, although it is not known yet what the wastage or eventual requirements will be.

FIGHT TERRORISTS Officers here expect that if the Singapore Military Forces were called out on any emergency they would be broken up into smaller units and assigned as battalions to other British or Federation of Malaya forces. This is in accordance with British Army practice, to minimize the possibility of very heavy casualties hitting only one area.

Under the Bill, units of the Singapore force could be detached for service against the terrorists in Malaya if their activities were declared to be a threat to Singapore's security.

Officers here state, however, that it will be some time before the scheme and it is likely that the situation will have changed substantially by then.

Staff officers do not believe that the Singapore Military Forces will release British troops who are at present guarding the Colony's borders.

But they do say that if a state of emergency should be declared and the forces are called out, the presence of trained troops here would relieve Britain of the necessity of sending reinforcements.

This line would replace that of the Swedish one of this kind, which was taken over by the British, when the concession for the line expired on March 1.

Launching Of US Carrier Is Delayed

Washington, Jan. 7. The U.S. Navy announced today that launching of the super-aircraft carrier Forrestal will be delayed from this Spring until this Autumn because of late delivery of the main engine and other major equipment.

A Navy statement said that the delay had nothing to do with design changes announced last September. These included an angled flight deck for safer landings and installation of steam rather than hydraulic catapults for launching planes. Both are British innovations.

The 60,000-ton ship is being built by the Newport News, Virginia, Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Corporation. It is scheduled to cost US\$218,000,000.

The delay means that the carrier will not be delivered to the Navy until 1955.

FIRST OF THREE The Forrestal is the first of three controversial super-carriers planned for the Navy.

By coincidence, today is the deadline for bids on the construction of the third of the ships. Bids were invited from Newport News, Bethlehem Steel at Quincy, Massachusetts, and New York Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Corporation, Camden, New Jersey.

The second carrier, the Saratoga, now is building at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The Navy said that construction progress on the Forrestal "is considered quite satisfactory."

The second deck is well underway and the hangar deck, just below the flight deck, has been started. — United Press.

"Frontier Gandhi" Released By Pakistan

Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Jan. 7. Khan Abdul Ghafoor Khan, the "Frontier Gandhi" who was released this morning after five years in jail, told journalists that Kashmir should unite with Pakistan.

He said he regretted that both Mohammed Iqbal, the founder of Pakistan, and Liaquat Ali Khan disregarded his offer of settling the Kashmir dispute by going and telling his friends, the four mirs, that among the four "brother" provinces of Pakistan, Kashmir should be the fifth, and all five together would rule the whole country.

Talking in "Gandhian" terms, Ghafoor Khan said he was still in darkness, and that until light dawned on him, he would not know about his future programme. He recalled that he had taken an oath of allegiance to Pakistan, when he was a member of the Constituent Assembly. When released from the Rawalpindi jail, he was greeted by many admirers, who followed him to the government guest house, where he will be staying today.

The "Frontier Gandhi" said he would not ask the government to remove the ban on his Red Shirts party, nor would he join the government's "National League" or the opposition party, because, he said, "this national league is harmful to the country."

The release of Ghafoor Khan and other Red Shirts leaders has been hailed in Pakistan as a move towards the "democratization" of the country.

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"If we can be sure of there being a French Prime Minister we can have a BIG FOUR conference — If we can be sure no one pulls another gun on Malenkov ..."

—(London Express Service)

**IRON CURTAIN REPORT STUDIED
BY WASHINGTON EXPERTS**

'Beria pulled gun on Malenkov'

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

NEW YORK. LAURENTI BERIA, once all-powerful head of the Soviet Secret Police, was neither arrested, tried, nor executed—he was shot down in a pistol duel in the Kremlin when he tried a personal coup to snatch Stalin's throne.

That is the substance of a report now being studied by Washington experts. The report came from sources in Georgia—Beria's stronghold—where he, like Stalin, was Georgian—soon after the news of his arrest last July.

But at the time it could only be regarded as an interesting possibility. Then came the Kremlin's announcement that 54-year-old Beria would be brought to trial before a People's Court. Here was a test.

Top three

If Beria was produced for trial the report would collapse. But now the test has been applied and the report has passed it. Neither Beria, nor any of the top henchmen sentenced to death with him, were produced. Their trial was in secret, their executions immediate.

So now experts are studying the report again. It says that soon after Stalin's death Malenkov, Molotov, and Beria, and Marshal Bulganin—representing the Red Army—met in secret in the Kremlin, accompanied only by their closest aides.

Berla—who knew everything going on in Russia and wielded more personal power than all the others put together—already knew how much the

others feared and hated him. He also knew they had made an uneasy pact to put him out of the way.

So he determined on a supreme gamble: to wipe out his chief opponents at one stroke—himself. With men already in key positions at very level of government and in the armed forces, he believed he could seize power instantly.

In the middle of the conference he whipped out a pistol. But whether he missed his first target, Malenkov, or whether his pistol misfired is not known. It is said that one of Bulganin's aides shot him down and that his own bodyguard surrendered.

Too dramatic

What are the Washington experts saying now of what at first seemed almost too dramatic a settlement of the differences between Russia's rulers?

FIRST, of course, that such a clash could happen among men accustomed to achieving political ambitions by liquidating opposition.

SECOND, it does provide a plausible answer to why Beria could have been stripped of his enormous power and made a prisoner so easily.

It has been said that Beria's downfall was brought about by Red Army chiefs, the only men with power approaching his own. But Beria had infiltrated the Red Army too. His political commissars were active from company level upwards—and they had access to all orders issued.

So there is one question which the Georgia report does not answer: Who drew first in the Kremlin gun fight? Was it Beria or was it the Red Army?

TEN MEN ON THE SILENT FRONTIER

By
JACK SENN

SIXTEEN hundred miles south of the warm, lush, fruit-growing lands of Tasmania lies the sixth continent—Antarctica.

For long ages only sea birds and seals visited its shores. It was only fifty years ago that the intrepid Sir George Newnes went there as an explorer, followed by Scott, Shackleton and Amundsen.

But today the great Powers are slowly realising the value of this continent, encircled in winter by six hundred miles of ice.

It may yet become the crossroads of new world air routes. Powerful ice-breakers may keep the sea lanes clear for ships traversing the bottom of the world.

Under its ice-cap are believed to exist valuable minerals. There may be big deposits of lead, silver and atomic ores. For the geology of the Antarctic rocks tallies exactly with that of New South Wales, where the same ores are being mined.

There is certainly coal—good coal—in seven feet seams, a sign that ages ago the South Pole was covered by tropical forests.

Wealth There

THERE is wealth off the shores of Antarctica too. Below the drifting icebergs are fish and a superabundance of plankton, their food.

This plankton could one day, after chemical treatment, be converted into food for humans and animals.

And these same waters produce the world's biggest annual harvest in whales—worth about £30,000,000.

Now the Australians, who have already paid particular attention to Heard and McQuarie Islands and their other southern possessions, are planning an expedition to consolidate their claim on the continent.

In preparation, reconnaissance planes from Melbourne are making regular flights to collect material and pictorial information for the venture. This will be early this year.

First, a ten-man expedition will meet at a forward base on Heard Island, just outside the pack-ice limit. They will check equipment there—huskies, motor-



At the foot of "Big Ben," Heard Island's 9,000 feet, snow-covered volcano, the Australian Antarctic Expedition will have a forward base.

driven American sledges with caravans attached, two ski-fitted light aircraft, radio equipment, and personal ice gear.

From there the expedition plans to land on McRobertson Land, an Australian segment of Antarctica, a thousand miles south of Heard Island.

The team will be transported there by the research vessel Kista Dan, chartered from the Danish Government.

The two aircraft will guide them through the dangerous ice-floes into the free summer waters which lash the 60-foot ice shelf of the silent continent.

There, on the true coastline, the party hopes to find exposed rocks on which to build a permanent settlement.



Ready for anything. This is how a member of the Expedition is fitted out, complete with crampons, ice-axe, snow-goggles and nylon rope.

This will mean building five huts, erecting radio aerials, installing diesel-driven electric power plants, and setting up meteorological instruments.

With the base established, the men will start careful mapping of the area and make further investigation of the continent's geology.

Meanwhile, the field crew of the party will journey 300 miles inland on their powered sledges.

Some of the scientists will stay behind to study sea phenomena, such as the moods of tides and sea ice, to ensure the safe landing of future parties.

Strange Sights

BUT their work will begin on Heard Island, where they will study marine biology and migratory habits of birds and seals.

And in these parts, thrashed by swirling snow and stinging sleet, where so far only 14 men have lived a hermit existence, there are many strange creatures few have seen.

For instance, there are wingless flies believed to be millions of years old. Scientists presume that in the face of sixty-mile-an-hour gales they decided it would be easier to walk, and so through the centuries their wings atrophied and fell off completely.

Heard Island also sees the yearly migration of leopard seals. They go there to give birth to their young.

These shiny, elusive animals are savage, have sharp teeth, weigh half a ton, and are almost impossible to catch. But in 1951 one expectant mother was caught.

She delivered a pup, and one diary of the event summed up: "scaled and delivered."

But life at the base of Heard Island's 9,000-foot "Big Ben" volcano provides few laughs.

The setting is gloomy. The sun appears as a weak, hazy, silver ball for only half an hour every day, and is soon enshrouded in snow clouds and clinging mists.

It is easy to believe in the supernatural.

Australian maintenance men on Heard Island one day dug up a skull believed to be that of a nineteenth-century seal trapper.

And in these parts, where humour is as precious as a packet of cigarettes or a pint of beer, the lonely men jokingly called him Yorick.

But the laugh was a poor one.

Real Dilemma

FROM that day strange and unforeseen things began to happen—some more serious than others. Then the men decided to bury Yorick again, for only he was enjoying the joke. And from the moment he was solemnly reintroduced, the ghostly pranks ceased as mysteriously as they had started.

But when the Kista Dan sails further south this month, Yorick's ghost and even the rigours of Heard Island will not be before the ordeal of settling this unexplored land of ice and snow.

Tapping the minerals will present the first real dilemma, for the coal and uranium lie deep under the ice-cap.

But the risks are worth taking. And some day the message written on a vermillion post in snowbound Heard Island may not sound so fantastic. It says: "Wait here for trans—signal driver."

OLD MOORE'S 257 YEARS

By J. W. TAYLOR

WITH the advent of a New Year, millions of people the world over will turn to an old favourite for his forecasts of the future—Old Moore's Almanack.

Down through the ages men have tried to foresee what the future held in store for them, and for over 250 years forecaster Francis Moore has gained fame for his predictions, some of them astonishingly accurate, although written at least a year before their final publication.

The original Doctor Moore was a physician at the court of King Charles II, and was a well-known astrologer in the City of London in the 17th century. He caused quite a stir in 1699 with the publication of his prophetic almanack containing his predictions for the year 1697 which proved to be, as with those of the subsequent 19 years of publication, astonishingly near the mark.

The Stationers' Company, carried on the almanack after his death in 1715 until the copyright passed to Foulshams, the present Fleet Street publishers. Then early in the 19th century the familiar word "Old" was added to the title so that the now famous almanack became known under its popular name of Foulshams's Original Old Moore's Almanack.

ACCURATE FORECASTS

The almanack of today remains faithful to the procedure started by Dr Moore, the accuracy of the forecasting of major events of the past quarter of a century making forecast-

ing reading for the many expectant subscribers, especially when it is considered that all is written twelve months before the year under review, with a publishing date in the late spring of the same preceding year.

For 1954 there is forecast a Royal romance, a big boom in gold shares, development of internal problems in Russia, a horoscope of President Eisenhower, and indications for the year's big races.

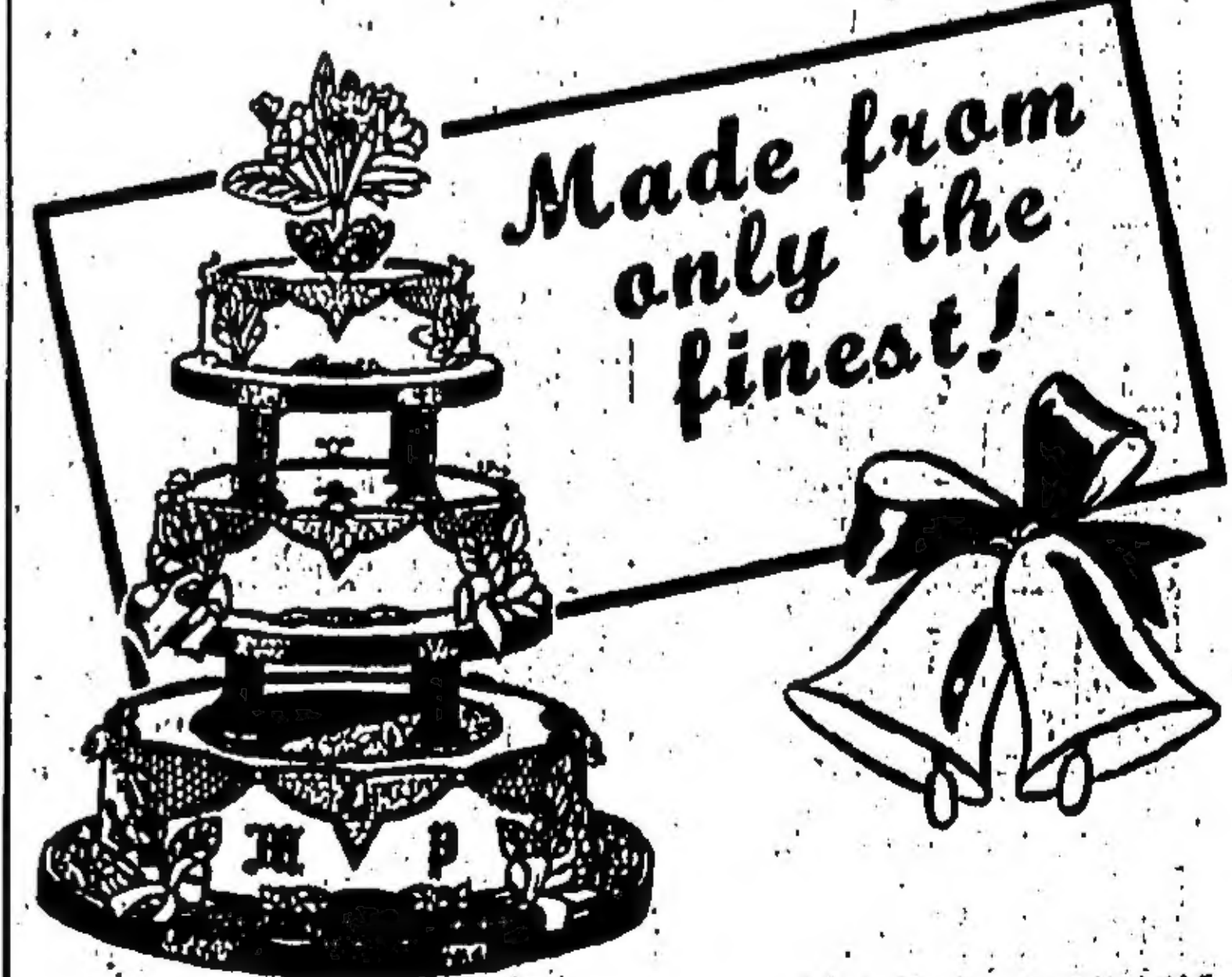
One sees in retrospect the astonishing forecasting facility of Old Moore. Although prepared for publication 12 months before, Old Moore wrote of May, 1928: "The month will create events of historical interest. Mars, in conjunction with Uranus, now makes for a crisis in transports, and a great strike will occur." It is a matter of history that the General Strike began on May 3, 1928. Of October, 1931, Old Moore said: "... indicates a fall of the Government and a General Election, in which a new National Government will be returned." This came about in that month after the fall of Ramsay MacDonald's Government.

There was the startling Old Moore's horoscope of Princess Elizabeth in the 1930 edition: "... constitutional changes of a permanent nature will have been effected in the country of her birth before the Princess attains her 14th year. Princess Elizabeth was only ten when King Edward VIII abdicated and she became heir to the Throne to which she has now succeeded as Queen.

Old Moore had an uncanny peep into the future when he wrote of "the beginnings of an upheaval in Central Europe—it being far from unlikely that Germany will now absorb Austria." Early in 1938 Germany marched and Austria came under Berlin domination.

SECOND WAR
Eighteen months beforehand Old Moore's predictions for September, 1938, were prepared and read: "... war in Central Europe will only be averted with the greatest difficulty." Readers remembered this when the 1938 Munich crisis arose. A year later came the Second World War.

It was Mr Chamberlain himself who said in a speech after Munich that he was unable to tell the people what was going to happen in the future, but that Old Moore seemed to know.

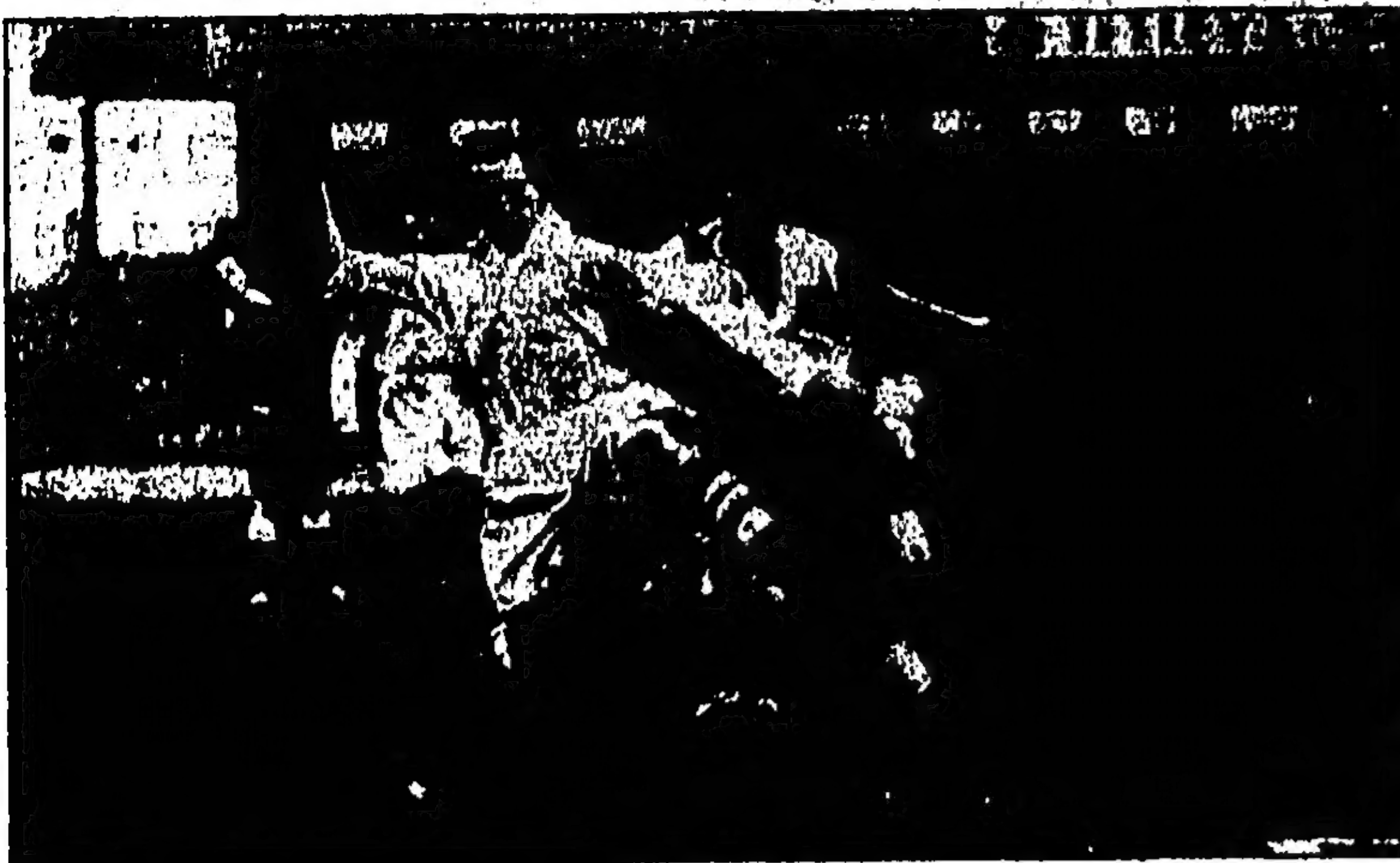


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MANCHESTER CITY v. SHEFFIELD UNITED



The referee peers round the corner as mud-spattered Little, Manchester City's left back, leaps to chop down the ball. Sheffield United's Ringstead is close behind. Manchester City won the match 2-1.—Express Photo.

Tomorrow's Chances At The Valley

By "RAPIER"

The Second Day of the Hongkong Jockey Club's Sixth Race Meeting of the season will commence at 2 p.m. sharp tomorrow, and with the possibility of the weather remaining fine there ought to be another large attendance at the Valley.

There are eight events down for decision, the main attraction being the Taiwan Bay Handicap for Class 2 ponies. This is the third race on the programme and it will be contested over the Champion distance.

FIRST RACE

Sywan Bay Handicap (First Section): One Mile.

In view of an eye-opening mile gallop on January 2 in 2:02.2—last quarter 28.1 seconds—Trade Wind (Mr. Wei) will be in most demand.

His closest rivals are Draughtsman (Mr. Plumby) and May Blossom (Mr. Yew). I concede Rowan Glen (Mr. Kwok) and Souvenir (Mr. Lam) fair

Rex Hartwig Comes Close To Beating Hoad

Adelaide, Jan. 7.

Rex Hartwig came close to bringing off the biggest upset of the season here today when he took Lewis Hoad, on current form the world's best singles player, to five sets in the all-Australian semi-final of the South Australian Lawn Tennis Championships.

Hoad, who is unbeaten in the singles in Australia this season including the Davis Cup challenge tie against the United States, had a grim fight before winning by 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2.

In the final, Hoad will meet Tony Trabert, the American champion, who confirmed his Davis Cup superiority by soundly beating Ken Rosewall, Australian title holder, by 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.

Hartwig, who was not nominated for the Davis Cup singles but partnered Hoad in the doubles, raised his game to unexpected heights to take the first two sets and started the large galleries at the Memorial Drive Courts.

THRILLING SET

But he could not hold his advantage after a thrilling third set in which he made Hoad battle for every point. Hartwig frequently broke Hoad's service, one of the strongest in the game and made some uncanny returns, and placements before losing the set in 12 games.

After the brief interval between the sets Hoad returned to the court refreshed and in dominant mood. He showed his meant business by breaking Hartwig's delivery in the first game and then shattered all opposition with sizzling services which left Hartwig standing helplessly.

Hoad dropped only three games in winning the last two sets.

Trabert, who was reported to be suffering from a sore shoulder yesterday when he and Vic Seixas went down to Hoad and Rosewall in the doubles, showed no signs of injury today.

The American was on top of his game and made few mistakes. Rosewall, however, appeared to be out of touch. He netted repeatedly on service returns and was inaccurate with shots down the middle.

SECOND RACE

Clear Water Bay Handicap: Six Furlongs.

This race will be contested by Class 3 ponies. Glorious (Mr. Samareq) and Beautiful Lie (Mr. Wei) appear likely to finish well up.

Field Marshal (Mr. E. K. Tu) is in fine fettle too and can be counted upon for a creditable performance.

Old timers like Golden Dahlia (Mr. Kwok) and Hellzapoppin (Mr. Tsui) should be able to take on any opposition offered here if only they can run back to anything like their old form.

THIRD RACE

Taiwan Bay Handicap: 1 1/4 Miles.

This is the main event of the afternoon and is confined to Class 2 ponies. Benita (Mr. F. Noddy) continues in class form and is a chance for this race.

Field (Mr. Au) will probably run her very close and Pienso (Mr. Samareq) could be new too.

I also have a fancy for Squadron Leader (Mr. Tsui). The rank outsider is Marietta (Mr. S. W. Tang).

FOURTH RACE

Hughson Bay Handicap: Six Furlongs.

This sprint race is confined to Class 6 ponies. In the Epsom Handicap (Second Section) over the mile at the last meeting, Precious Mine, 137 lbs, under Mr. F. Noddy, won. It would, therefore, appear that, although penalized by 15 lbs, Precious Mine has the best recommendation for another win if a good position is drawn.

How Do I Know (Mr. H. C. Woo) is a much improved pony and should give a good account of itself over this distance if it does not actually win.

There are other ponies, however, to be reckoned with, especially Same Again (Mr. Plumby) and Star-Glo (Mr. Kwok), both of which are quite capable of causing an upset, and there is also Jip On (Mr. Samareq) to be considered.

FIFTH RACE

Telegraph Bay Handicap: From 2 Mile Post.

This race will be contested by Class 3 ponies. Amarrat (Mr. Samareq) won the Baidoye Handicap (Second Section) for Class 4 ponies over the mile at the last meeting, when carrying 155 lbs, on the disqualification of Apple Pie, the first pony. Tomorrow afternoon its weight is down by 12 lbs. and I think it should win again.

There are Supreme Command (Mr. Botcho) and Easy Money (Mr. Plumby), to be reckoned with, as these two ponies are also good over this distance although they have not won a race for quite some time.

SIXTH RACE

Sywan Bay Handicap (Second Section): One Mile.

It is hard to forecast which pony will be the public's choice, but for this race I will recommend two very fit ponies. They are Eudora (Mr. Tsui) and Rider's Wish (Mr. Wei). These ponies have not been in the limelight of late but are fighting it at the moment and good enough to account for whatever opposition may be forthcoming. My fancy is Eudora, despite her tendency to refuse to start when the gate goes up.

Henrietta (Mr. Kwok) and Moume (Mr. Aucho) have not had much success lately, but are

quite likely to pop up when least expected.

SEVENTH RACE

Mrs. Bay Handicap: 1 1/4 Miles.

I like the way Free Kick (Mr. Ng) has been going about his work and I think he will do the trick here.

Ben Ledi (Mr. Tsui) should be very close, having undergone special preparation for this event.

The Stranger (Mr. Lam), Geronimo (Mr. Samareq) and Ann Hing (Mr. Kwok) are not bad propositions and Probability (Mr. Wei) may surprise them all by creating an upset.

EIGHTH RACE

Sywan Bay Handicap (Third Section): One Mile.

Moonrush (Mr. Hung) will have a big day in the last race of the day. This bay mare has struck recently in morning gallops.

The Tigress (Mr. Samareq) is bound to offer stiff opposition as this old timer is quite good for this distance and is, besides, in fine fettle.

Particularly dangerous are Ben Lawers (Mr. Tsui) and Scrobo (Mr. Aucho). Both are in good condition.

As an outsider, Desert Gold (Mr. Chen Poo) is worth following.

WEEK-END CRICKET TEAMS

The following have been selected for cricket League matches this week-end:

Cricket League
1st Division V. C.C.C. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at K.C.C.—P. R. Bag, G. A. Souza, C. Hong Choy, W. H. E. College, K. Y. Tam, B. P. Edwards, J. P. Franklin, M. Singh, G. Saunders, P. J. Billimoria, S. P. Kauria; 12th man, R. Manley. Players are requested to meet at Diakie Pier at 1 p.m.

Army
1st Division Army "A" v. Recreation at 1.30 p.m. to-morrow at Recreation—J. B. Bailey, A. O. Kirby, S. T. de Cruz, P. C. Heron, R. E. A. G. Seaward, J. D. F. Alexander, A. G. Weir, W. Fackham-Walsh, J. K. Gilling, T. A. Fargotter, T. G. Dowling.

KCC
1st Division V. C.C.C. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at K.C.C.—P. V. Dodge, B. C. N. Carne, H. Chamberlain, D. Cowey, S. W. Gilling, P. Hall, R. C. Jenner, A. T. Lee, R. E. Lee, P. Wood, J. Zimmer, R. S. Zimmer.

2nd Division V. D.B.S. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at D.B.S.—E. C. Finch, R. A. A. E. V. W. J. B. Lewis, L. G. Heron, N. P. Hart-Dicker, J. Marshall, V. C. Bond, A. E. Gundy, R. Maddox, C. 30. Guilford.

Talkies
The following will represent Butterfield & Swire in their annual cricket match against the Hongkong Cricket Club at 11.30 a.m. at the H.K. Cricket Club—T. G. C. Knight, C. J. B. Leader, A. E. V. W. J. B. Lewis, L. G. Heron, N. P. Hart-Dicker, J. Marshall, V. C. Bond, A. E. Gundy, R. Maddox, C. 30. Guilford.

1st Division V. R.A.F. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at Recreation—J. B. Bailey, A. O. Kirby, S. T. de Cruz, P. C. Heron, R. E. A. G. Seaward, J. D. F. Alexander, A. G. Weir, W. Fackham-Walsh, J. K. Gilling, T. A. Fargotter, T. G. Dowling.

2nd Division V. D.B.S. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at D.B.S.—E. C. Finch, R. A. A. E. V. W. J. B. Lewis, L. G. Heron, N. P. Hart-Dicker, J. Marshall, V. C. Bond, A. E. Gundy, R. Maddox, C. 30. Guilford.

3rd Division V. R.A.F. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at Recreation—J. B. Bailey, A. O. Kirby, S. T. de Cruz, P. C. Heron, R. E. A. G. Seaward, J. D. F. Alexander, A. G. Weir, W. Fackham-Walsh, J. K. Gilling, T. A. Fargotter, T. G. Dowling.

4th Division V. D.B.S. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at D.B.S.—E. C. Finch, R. A. A. E. V. W. J. B. Lewis, L. G. Heron, N. P. Hart-Dicker, J. Marshall, V. C. Bond, A. E. Gundy, R. Maddox, C. 30. Guilford.

5th Division V. R.A.F. to-morrow at 1.30 p.m. at Recreation—J. B. Bailey, A. O. Kirby, S. T. de Cruz, P. C. Heron, R. E. A. G. Seaward, J. D. F. Alexander, A. G. Weir, W. Fackham-Walsh, J. K. Gilling, T. A. Fargotter, T. G. Dowling.

NOT MANY BACKERS FOR AN IRISH VICTORY AGAINST THE ALL BLACKS TOMORROW

By J. R. WATKINS

Tomorrow in Dublin the All Blacks play the second International of their tour. The hosts, Ireland, twice winners of the Triple Crown in post-war years, could do no better than finish third in the Championship table last season.

For them, as for Wales, this will be the first real test of the present campaign and they must therefore be something of an unknown quantity.

Colony Squash Tournery Draw

The Colony Squash Tournament starts on Monday, and the draw is now posted in the Victoria squash courts.

It is unfortunate that some of the good Navy players will be unable to compete but there is a much larger entry this year, and a lot of new names have appeared, particularly from the Army.

Last year's finalists, Commander J. L. Rigge and P. L. Holmes have been seeded Nos. 1 and 2 respectively, and the other two seeds are R. M. Macpherson and Major E. F. Kite.

These players will meet with strong opposition from such old hands as G. H. P. Pritchard and H. R. Hubble, who, on their day are easily capable of getting through to the final.

Two new players, who could reach the latter stages of the tournament are Lt Col J. J. Sullivan and I. Corrie-Hill.

The first day's play sees two very interesting first-round matches, which may well go to the full five games. No. 4 seed Kite meets Pritchard, who was a semi-finalist in 1952, and Hubble meets Corrie-Hill, who although a newcomer, has had some convincing wins recently.

The times of all matches will be published in the local Press and competitors are warned that failure to appear within 10 minutes of the published starting time will result in their being scratched.

Balls will be provided by the Committee, and any queries should be addressed to the Hon. Tournament Secretary, P. L. Holmes, c/o Butterfield & Swire, Telephone 30391.

Record Entry For Table Tennis Championships

London, Jan. 7.

A record entry for the World Table Tennis Championships is virtually assured from a preliminary enquiry from countries to whom invitations were issued.

The Championships take place at Wembley from April 6 to 14, and replays received show that 36 countries will be sending men's teams and 27 women's teams.

Argentina, Australia, the Lebanon, New Zealand, and Spain are newcomers to the Championships while Hongkong, Japan, Pakistan and Singapore have not previously been seen in Europe.

The United Kingdom is taking part after a break of two years.

Owing to the huge entry, a qualifying competition will be held for the first time in connection with the team events.

Last year England beat Hungary to win the men's Swarthling Cup while Rumania beat England to win the women's Corbillion Cup.—China Mail Special.

Brussels Wants 1956 Games

Brussels, Jan. 6.

M. R. W. Seldryens, President of the Belgian Olympic Committee, said today that Brussels would propose its candidature for the 1956 Olympic Games if they were withdrawn from Melbourne.

He said he had made known his proposal to the Executive Olympic Committee which is due to meet in Lausanne later this month.—Reuter.

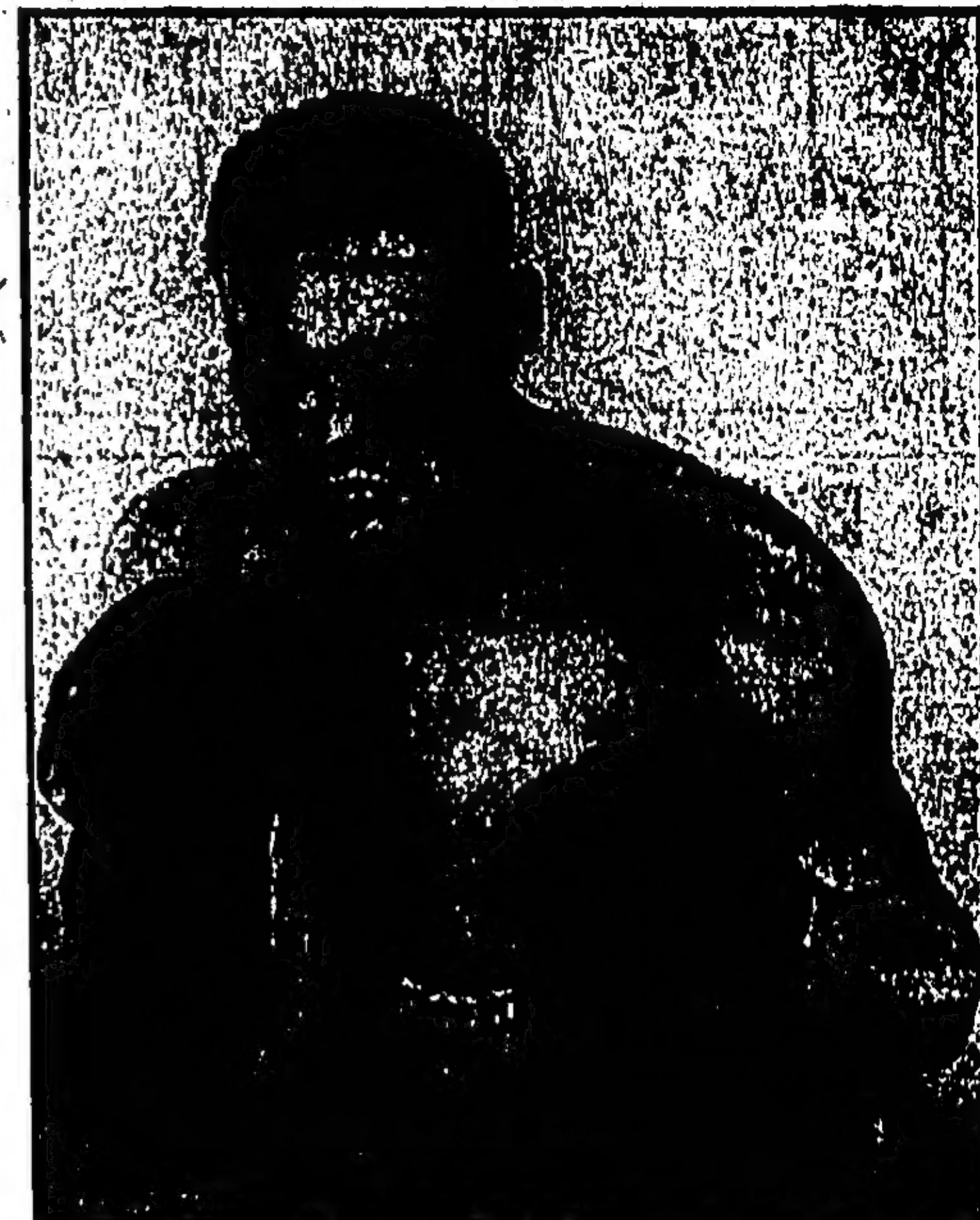
Soviet Skaters Leave For Japan

Moscow, Jan. 7.

World champion skater Oleg Goncharenko and six other Soviet skaters left for Japan today to take part in the world Speed Skating Championships.

M. Krupin, Deputy Chief Principal of the Department of Sport and Physical Culture at the Soviet Health Ministry, accompanied the skaters.—Reuter.

AFTER WORLD TITLE



The husky Canadian boxer of Cherokee Indian descent, Earl Walls, has the world heavyweight title as his goal. Walls, who also wants to meet British Champion Don Cockell for the Empire title, is a leading contender for American Rocky Marciano's world crown. He is 24, 6 feet 3 inches tall and has a terrific punch which has given him several first round victories.

SPOTLIGHTING THE THREE-YEAR-OLDS OF 1954

Rowston Manor Will Find The St. Leger Distance To His Liking

By JAMES PARK

Put them all on the scale and my money for the heaviest two-year-old in training would be on Rowston Manor. I could mention a few who would tip the beam at a hefty poundage, but I should be willing to have my stake on the best colt ever bred by Lincolnshire potato magpie, Mr. F. W. Dennis.

By way of good measure I would not mind having my winnings—if any—on Rowston Manor in the 1954 St Leger at the right price.

I have been wondering what Miss Dorothy Paget thinks about it. She bred Nivea, the dam of Rowston Manor. Nivea did not appear to possess much in the way of racing ability. She had little racing but was kept in training until she was four years old without getting her head in front.

Nivea was then sent up to the December Sales in 1947 and was knocked down to Mr. Dennis for 1,450 guineas—a nice buy as it turned out.

I do not know how Mr. Dennis apportions his yearlings among his many trainers, but it fell to the lot of Harry Peaceock, who trains at Richmond, in Yorkshire, to get Rowston Manor. I was talking to Harry about the several two-year-old winners he had before racing at York on May 20. He remarked in a casual sort of way: "I'm running a grand big two-year-old in the first race. Have a look at him."

He was a magnificent proportioned chestnut. I looked at my racecard and found it was Rowston Manor—the colt I had gone to see.

He was a tremendous bodied colt and I was a little surprised that one of his proportions should be running so early in the season. I should have said that he had not done a lot in the way of fast work and not for a moment did I think he would be in the race.

He was many a length behind when they had gone halfway but, in the last furlong, along came the gigantic chestnut with

huge pounding strides. He had far too much leeway to make up but so well did he finish that there is no doubt in my mind that he would have won with another furlong to go.

STRONG FINISH

The colt found the five furlongs in the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot too short but once more a strong finish took him into third place behind King's Evidence and Feoba.

Rowston Manor had three more races. Following an easy task at Haydock, he was second to Darius in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster.

Rowston Manor never looked like getting to Darius at Doncaster, but you should have seen him go up the hill in the eighth furlong at Newmarket. He was going so strongly passing the winning post that another half-mile would not have troubled him.

OFTEN RIGHT

Straightaway I thought I had seen the St Leger winner of next year. How that will work out remains to be seen, but those first impressions are often right.

With all his size and bulk, Rowston Manor gives the impression that no distance will be too far for him.

I admit that he does not look the type who would be at home on the Epsom course. But I am going to be cautious. Much the same could have been said about Pinza at this time last year and we know what he did.

So I am not going to write anything which will cause me to eat my words, though I do not mind saying that he should find the St Leger more in his line.

PEARL DIVER'S BEST

By the 1947 Derby winner, Pearl Diver, I should say Rowston Manor is the best son of that stallion so far. The dam, Nivea, is by Nearsco, out of Devo, by Gainsborough, out of Lake Van, by Lemberg.

Japanese Girl Swimmers Break Philippine Marks

Manila, Jan. 7.

Japanese girl swimmers broke Philippine records and swept all opposition in today's events of the National Open Swimming Championships.

Masayo Aoki won the 100 metres breaststroke championship in 1:29.1 to establish a new Philippine and all-comers record.

Midori Morimura won the 200 metres backstroke championship with a time of 2:58 flat and broke the P.I. record in the trial of the 100-metre event with a time of 1:22.1.

Tomiko Akashi, Japanese sprint queen, set a new P.I. record in the 100 metres free style trial with a time of 1:11.3. Mas Akashi also turned in the best time—2:42.1—in the 200 metres free style trial.—United Press.

Professional Tennis

Philadelphia, Jan. 6.

In the professional lawn tennis tournament here last night, Jack Kramer and F. Segura (U.S.) beat Frank Sedgman (Australia) and Donald Budge (U.S.), 6-6, 6-8 and 6-1.—France-Press.



BUTTERFIELD and SWIRE

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS TO
 "FENGTIEN" ... Bangkok ... 8 a.m. 9th Jan.
 "SHENGKING" ... Keelung ... 5 p.m. 9th Jan.
 Sails from Cantonian Wharf

ARRIVALS FROM
 "YCHOOW" ... Bangkok ... 8 a.m. 10th Jan.
 "YUNNAN" ... Shanghai ... 10th Jan.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO
 "TAIPING" ... Kure & Kobe ... 7 a.m. 10th Jan.
ARRIVALS FROM
 "CHANGSHIA" ... Yokohama ... p.m. 9th Jan.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said

Ship	From	To	Date
"ANCHISES"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Jan.	14th Jan.
"CLYTONUS"	Liverpool & Dublin	22nd Jan.	23rd Jan.
"ASTYANAX"	Genoa, London, Rotterdam, Amsterdam & Hamburg	24th Jan.	25th Jan.
"PYRRHUS"	Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow	5th Feb.	6th Feb.
"EUMAEUS"	Liverpool & Glasgow	13th Feb.	14th Feb.

Scheduled Sailings from Europe

Ship	From	To	Date
S. "ASTYANAX"	Liverpool	Rotterdam	8th Jan.
G. "PYRRHUS"	do	Sailed	13th Jan.
S. "EUMAEUS"	do	do	23rd Jan.
S. "AGARINUS"	do	do	28th Jan.
S. "AGARINUS"	do	do	7th Feb.
S. "PELEUS"	7th Jan.	13th Jan.	13th Feb.
S. "AUTOMEDON"	18th Jan.	do	22nd Feb.
G. "ATREUS"	24th Jan.	do	28th Feb.

G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool. S. Loading Swansea, before Liverpool. Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

DE LA RAMA LINES

ARRIVING FROM U.S. ATLANTIC & PACIFIC COAST PORTS.

Ship	From	To	Date
"DONA AURORA"	Sailed	Sailed	19th Jan.
"DONA ALICIA"	do	do	28th Jan.
"BATAAN"	do	do	12th Jan.
"MUNCASTER CASTLE"	15th Jan.	6th Feb.	7th Mar.
"TELEMACHUS"	25th Jan.	10th Feb.	18th Mar.

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Ship	From	To	Date
"HAINAN"	19th Jan.	20th Jan.	
"DONA AURORA"	17th Feb.	18th Feb.	
"DONA ALICIA"	4th Mar.	5th Mar.	

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HK/Dagkok/Singapore	(DC-4)	9:00 a.m. Tuesday
HK/Manila/Singapore	(DC-3)	9:30 a.m. Tue. & Fri.
HK/Dagkok/Singapore	(DC-3)	10:00 a.m. Wednesday
HK/Dagkok/Singapore	(DC-4)	7:00 a.m. Thursday
HK/Dagkok/Singapore/Calcutta	(DC-4)	12:00 noon Friday

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 Sails Jan. 17 for Incheon, Fusan, Kobe & Yokohama.

"STAR ALCYONE"

Arrives Jan. 21 from Japan.
 Sails Jan. 22 for Singapore, Port Swettenham, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khormashahr, Bahrain & Bahrein.

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are hereby notified that their cargo

is being discharged into the Hong-

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Co's godown where it will be at

consignee's risk and subject to the

condition of storage, and where de-

livery may be obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left

in the godown for examination by

Consignee and the Company's sur-

veyors, Messrs. Carmichael & Clarke

at 10 a.m. on the 8th January, 1954.

To comply with the General Bond-

ed Warehouse Regulations, consignees

must have a Revenue Officer in

attendance when damaged dutiable

goods are examined.

No claims will be admitted after

the goods have left the steamer's

tackle, and all goods remaining

undelivered after the 8th January,

1954, will be subject to rent.

All claims against the steamer

must be presented to the Under-

signed on or before the 18th January,

1954, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents.

Hongkong, 8th January, 1954.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

CONSIGNEES PER

NIPTON YUSEN KAISHA

s.s. "SHUNKO MARU"

and

s.s. "NO. 1 DAISETSU MARU"

are hereby notified that their cargo

is being discharged into the Hong-

kong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown

Co's godown where it will be at

consignee's risk and subject to the

Wharf's terms and condition of

storage, and where delivery may be

obtained.

Damaged packages are to be left

in the godown for examination by

Consignee and the Company's sur-

veyors, Messrs. Goddard & Douglas

at 10 a.m. on the 11th January, 1954.

All claims against the steamer

must be presented to the Under-

signed on or before the 18th January,

1954, or they will not be recognised.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.

Agents.

Hongkong, 7th January, 1954.

UN Official To go To Moscow

United Nations,

New York, Jan. 7.

The Director of the United

Nations Technical Assistance

Administration, Hugh Kennedy,

is soon to visit Moscow,

Copenhagen, and London. It

was announced here today.

Mr. Kennedy's visit to

Moscow was decided, as a re-

sult of the Russian announce-

ment last Summer that for the

first time, the Soviet govern-

ment would contribute four

million roubles to the technical

assistance fund of the United

Nations.—FRANCE-PRESSE.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

s.s. "TAIPING"

arrs. 7th January, 1954

Damaged cargo on this vessel will

be surveyed by Messrs. Goddard &

Douglas at Hong Kong & Kowloon

Wharf Godown at 10.00 a.m. on

Monday, 11th January and Tuesday

12th January, 1954, and consignee

representatives are requested to be

present during survey.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Australian-oriental Line Ltd.

China Navigation Co., Ltd.

"Unwise To Make Agreement On Suez Canal"

—says Tory Rebel

London, Jan. 7.

Conservative "rebel" Ralph

Asheton M.P. today advocated

dropping all attempts to reach

an agreement with Egypt on

the Suez Canal problem.

Speaking at Blackburn

(Lancashire), the Conservative

member—a strong critic of the

government's policy on the

Suez Canal—said it would not

be wise to make an agreement

with the Egyptians.

He pointed out that Egypt

had broken three treaties, one

of which, he said, was made

only last year.

In order to protect Britain's

vital interests in the Middle East

and the Suez Canal, he added,

it was essential that an armed

force strong enough to do this

should be kept there. "True, it

is desirable to reduce our large

army in the Canal Zone as soon

as possible," he concluded, "but

we cannot allow ourselves to

be dictated to and it would be

better to reach no agreement

than to make a bad one."

FRANCE-PRESSE.

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL

STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

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Dep: Yokohama	23rd January	4 p.m.	24th April
Arr: Kobe	24th January	Noon	25th April
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Arr: Hongkong	30th January	Noon	30th April

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JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



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Homewards

Leaves Hongkong Due London

15th January 15th February

15th February 1st March

15th February



Glamorous 17-year-old, Hildi Kruger, a public school girl from Koenigsberg, smilingly poses for the cameraman after being elected "Miss Germany" 1953/54 at Hamburg.—Express Photo.

King John (1199-1216) —A Nuisance To The French Govt. In 1954

Paris, Jan. 7.

The fate of millions of kilowatts, as well as of unaccounted oysters and lobsters, was left undecided by the recent decision of The Hague Court in the Anglo-French dispute over the Erehous and Minquiers islets.

The Court ruled, on November 17 last, that the Erehous, lying between Jersey and Sark, and the Minquiers, further south towards Saint Malo, belong to the Channel Islands. In other words, the Kings of England did not give them up when they surrendered continental Normandy to the Kings of France, and Queen Elizabeth II is just as much Duchess of Normandy on these uninhabited rocks as she is in Jersey or Guernsey.

France and Britain had agreed in advance, by a convention signed in January 1951, that French and British fishermen should have equal rights in the waters of both groups. Only three areas, one third of a mile across round the three biggest islets, in which boats of the losing side have the right to anchor but not to fish, were reserved as a bonus for the winner of The Hague case.

But France also has a long term scheme for harnessing the strong tides as they swirl in from the Atlantic round the islands in the Gulf of Cotenin, between the Cherbourg peninsula and the north Breton coast.

The third stage in that plan involves building a tidal power station on the Minquiers Islands at a cost estimated, today, at between 1,000 and 1,400 thousand million francs.

When the French representative mentioned this project at The Hague Court hearing, the British representatives declared that Britain had no prior objection and would be ready to start negotiations whenever the French authorities wanted to do so.

There is, however, plenty of time.

LONG WAY OFF—

Although Stage One of the long term scheme is stated to be part of the French Electricity Board's immediate development programme, Stage Two is as yet a long way off. And even so, as it involves spending 50,000 million francs a year for 20 years to build a tidal barrage in the French Channel Islands, east of the Minquiers and near the Norman coast, Stage Three is at present very much in the future.

Stage One, which now appears to be out of the dream stage, involves putting to work the 14-metre (more than 40 feet) tides in the estuary of the river Rance, separating Saint Malo from Dinard.

Upstream from the two towns, the estuary narrows to a gullet between two capes, the Pointe de la Breble on the Dinard side and the Pointe de la Briantaise on the Saint Malo side. Between these two capes, an engineer, M. Robert Gilbert, proposes to build a dam 800 metres (about 2,600 feet) long, 47 metres (about 155 feet) wide and rising 10 metres (about 30 feet) above the lowest tide level, which will give it a mar-

Twelve months of ice,
Snow and 60 mph winds

10 Men Face A Lonely Antarctic Winter

Melbourne, Jan. 7.
In February, a rocky ice-bound and unexplored shore on the Antarctic continent will be transformed into a hive of activity within a few hours.

Ice cliffs will echo the clatter of winches from a ship, probably half a mile offshore. The thrum of motorboat, tractor and aircraft engines will pulse where far canyons, the only sound has been the calling of birds, the crash of waves and the jurching splash of an iceberg cracking loose.

The ship will be the 1,200-ton chartered Danish icebreaker Kista Dan. The commotion will be the landing of the 1954 Australian Antarctic Expedition to establish the world's most southerly permanent base. The unloading of the 400 tons of stores and equipment designed to keep a 10-man party alive and active for one year, will be by rubber pontoon, huge bulbous shapes with up to 10 tons of equipment and food piled on to their sectional wooden deck.

As they ground in the shallows, the men will wade into freezing water, and drag or carry the gear to land. Ashore, the cargoes will be carefully stacked and the stacks crowned with marker flags, otherwise a night's snow fall might hide all trace of where they had been.

LIVE IN CARAVANS

The plywood and steel caravans in which the expedition will live during their inland exploration trips during the winter will be easily landed. They will be dumped into the water by a ship's derrick and towed ashore or they might even be landed with cargo.

The first job ashore is to build the four huts which will form the nucleus of the base. While building is in progress, the working parties ashore will sleep in the caravans. And it must be finished quickly for the Kista Dan must be bound for home before the big freeze-up starts again.

According to plan, she will spend no more than a fortnight at the base site. In that time, it is hoped, the first two huts will be up, providing adequate accommodation for the men left behind. They expect to complete the four huts in about two months if the weather is fine.

BIGGEST FEAR

One of the biggest fears of the expedition is that the experience of the 1911 Douglas Mawson trip will be repeated—gales of 200 miles an hour.

Even a 40 miles an hour wind can bring unloading operation to a standstill, cutting the boats and pontoons with a sheath of ice, whipping snow into chapped skins and making it painful to face the weather.

"We must expect frequent storms with winds up to 60 miles an hour," said Mr. Phillip Law, Director of the Antarctic Division of the External Affairs Department and chief planner of Australia's Antarctic projects. "But we hope there will be other better spells when we can get the work done."

A part time job for one member of the expedition is that of postmaster.

While Kista Dan is anchored off the base, he will stamp the special Antarctic postmark on letters contained in bags of mail received from all over the world and shipped with the Expedition. The mail will then be brought back by Kista Dan to Australia and forward to philatelists.

SKIS OR FLOATS

The new post office, probably the corner of a hut or tent, will serve a dual purpose. First, it will bring income to the Australian Postmaster General's Department, and, second, its establishment is significant politically as an act of administration.

Among the busiest men during Kista Dan's stay will be the Royal Australian Air Force team of four men flying, and servicing the two Auster aircraft which will survey possible exploration routes. They, and their planes, will return with Kista Dan.

The Auster, already used by the Norwegian-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, are fitted with either skis or floats and may start their programme this time by piloting Kista Dan through the pack ice. As the base, floats will be exchanged for skis if the terrain permits. The Auster will be the plane used by the expedition to reach the base, which will be the first of its kind in the Antarctic.

Need For More Trade Through H.K. UK JOURNAL STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF COLONY TO THE WEST

1954—Year Of Austerity For Japanese

Tokyo, Jan. 7.
Financial circles here say that 1954 will be a year of austerity for the Japanese people if the retrenchment policies proposed by the Finance Ministry are adopted.

These policies are embodied in a draft budget for the next fiscal year starting in April which the Finance Minister Mr. Sankuro Ogawara has submitted to the Cabinet for approval prior to presentation to national Diet (Parliament). While details are yet to be clarified, the draft budget would balance revenue and expenditure for the next fiscal year below 1,000,000 million yen compared with 1,027,000 million yen in the current financial year.

Financial circles point out that this would represent a substantial restriction of expenditures, considering the expansion of production during the past year. They also say the draft budget would actually create a surplus because its estimate of tax revenue is quite conservative. The actual deficit for the current financial year is estimated to exceed 100,000 million yen, the sources say.

SHIPBUILDING CUT

As revealed by the Finance Ministry, the draft budget features reductions in expenditure for a number of items including general administrative expenses, public works, food import subsidies, subsidies to shipbuilding and other industries, and capital investment for rationalization of industries.

As a result of these reductions, Finance Ministry officials believe that the next financial year's construction of ocean-going ships would be held down to 170,000 tons while rice imports would be cut by 900,000 tons and wheat would be substituted. On the other hand there would be some increase in defence expenditure.

The Finance Minister has told a press conference that the draft budget is designed ultimately to reduce the Japanese people's balance of international payments which has recently shown marked signs of deterioration.

He also said the draft budget would bring Japanese prices down by about 10 percent but called upon the Japanese people not to take advantage of the lower prices, but to economize in the same way as the Government.

INEVITABLE POLICIES

Financial circles said it still remained to be seen whether the Japanese Government could resist requests for modification of the draft budget which would result in increased expenditures. They pointed out, however, that practically all political parties were agreed in principle that retrenchment policies are inevitable if Japan was not to go bankrupt.

These circles said Japan would be compelled to devolve the yen next year unless something were done to put a stop to the deterioration of her balance of international payments, attributed to increased imports to cater for growing domestic consumption.

The sources said these retrenchment policies, coupled with the tighter money policy anticipated for next year, would have far-reaching effects both internally and externally.—Reuter.

ANGLO-JAPANESE TRADE

London, Jan. 7.
Anglo-Japanese delegates to current sterling payments agreement talks today discussed in detail 1954 trade prospects between Japan and the sterling area, of which Britain is the banker, according to a usually reliable source.

The Japanese delegation has already put proposals, not publicly disclosed, for increasing Japan's exports to sterling area markets.

Britain has replied to these proposals and the whole trading question is now under examination, the source added. Japanese business interests have publicly stated that restrictive practices enforced on imports in the sterling area are the major cause of Japan's present trading difficulties. In Japan, a Japanese official said, the Japanese Government would like to see the maximum possible relaxation of restrictions of Japanese exports to the sterling area and Japan's trade position.—Reuter.

Announcement from Berlin that East Germany and West Germany have extended their current trade agreement serves to draw attention to the recent efforts which have been made for a liberalisation of trade with the Soviet-controlled countries in Europe as well as in Asia.

Pressure is increasing on governments in the West for a relaxation of controls on the exchanges of goods, except those which come into the strategic and military categories.

Expansion of those commodity exchanges is already in evidence; and it is likely to grow in value and in volume in the coming months.

The last East-West German agreement provided for an exchange of goods to the value of £25 m. That now concluded puts the total at £63 m. In addition, frontier smuggling—in both directions—will be "regularised" in order to legalise an exchange of goods which has been going on in Europe and in which countries other than West Germany have been trading with, other than East Germany.

Of late, Russia appears to be merging from that isolation in politics and in trade which has kept the Western world frustrated since the end of the Second World War. Recent purchases range from butter, fish, meat and wool to ships, for which she has paid in cash and not in kind. The cash is gold, and some several million pounds worth has reached London as transferable funds with which to pay for her purchases, inter alia, in the sterling area.

HONGKONG THE CENTRE
At the Far East end of the Soviet bloc, trade with the Communist areas is centred on Hongkong. This island's population was at one time about 800,000, but refugees from the Chinese mainland have swollen it to some 2½ m. This increased population must live or else there will be chaos. Many of them have begun trading with their homeland. Many have gone into manufacturing for export. All this trade is, of course, not to or from the United Kingdom.

Several other European countries are participating and the U.S. share is not inconsiderable. In the first eight months of last year, U.K. exports to Communist China amounted to \$12.75 m. in value, of which about \$10m. were accounted for by textile machinery, wool, yarn, textiles, dyes and drugs (other than anti-biotics). In that same period we imported goods valued at \$15.75 m. chiefly eggs, silk, vegetable oils and seeds, and bristles.

On the other hand, Hongkong's exports to Communist China amounted to \$104.5 m. in the January-September of last year, the largest in value being wool tops, chemical products, dyes, watches, and fertilisers. Imports amounted to \$72 m., mainly footstuffs, tea, silk, animal hair, bristles, tung oil and textiles. In the trade exchange, Japan, Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, and the United States, as well as the United Kingdom, participated directly or indirectly.

The continued existence of Hongkong as a British free port, a sound base, and as a refuge for the politically oppressed by Communism, depends upon the continuance of trade with Communist China, however restricted or relaxed. It is trade with commodities not readily available elsewhere. If this restricted export trade of Hongkong to Communist China is banned entirely then yet another important area may be driven into the orbit of the Communists.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent)
Business done on the Stock Exchange this morning amounted to \$902,017.00. Noon quotations and the morning's transactions:

SHARES	BUYERS	SELLERS	SALES
HSBC	1015	20	1035
Bank of China	1015	45	1015
HSBC	1015	12	1015

INSURANCES	BUYERS	SELLERS	SALES
Union	0425	6015	
Waterbury	1015		
Asia Nip	1015		
DOCKERS, ETC.			
K. Wharf	6115	83	200
Dock	2015		
Provident (N)	12.40	12.40	12.30
Wheelock	8	8.10	7.90
Union	1000		825
Land, ETC.			
HSBC	9.90	9.100	9
HSBC	7.7	1009	10.10
Humphreys	18.80		
Real	1.85		
Utilities			
Tram	27.80	28	1000
Peak Tram	40	100	140
Star Ferry	340	100	14.40
C. Light (N)	14.00	14.00	14.20
G. Light (N)	1115	100	11.50
Electric	30	3015	30
Macao Elec.	10.40	10.70	
Telephone	17.00	1009	27.80
INDUSTRIAL			
Cement	10.30	1200	10.20
	10.30	1000	10.20
	10.30	100	10.40
Rope	16.70	17.10	
Metal Indus	2.00		
STREETS, ETC.			
Watson	20.20	2003	20.20
Watson	2215	200	22.15
L. Crawford	23.30	300	23.15
	23.30	100	23.10
COTTONS			
Textile Corp.	7.95	8	7.90
	8	1800	7.95
	8	200	7.95
MISCELLANEOUS			
Yamato	0.20	0.20	0.15

West German businessmen are of the opinion that the current trade offensive by the U.S.S.R. indicates that a big money era in East-West trade relationship is just around the corner. German trade with Communist China is running at the rate of \$55 m. far ahead of 1952. The Hamburg newspaper, "Die Welt," recently said that the China trade had been mounting so fast in recent months that the Bonn Government was already bidding against Britain to become Peking's major Western business partner and that the European countries might soon face a competitive move by U.S. business interests as China was a valuable field for them in the future.

One interesting sidelight of this German-Chinese trade is that while much of it is negotiated, at the outset, through Communist China's offices in East Berlin, the necessary banking transfers are made in London. The reason given for this is that the London banks possess facilities for ironing out involved Chinese-German payments at a time when there are no diplomatic or formal links between Bonn and Peking.

The West German desire to increase trade generally in the Far East and in the Middle East has revived a fresh move in the last few months from the fact that the West German boom in trade to Latin

Bridge Was Still Standing

Tokyo, Jan. 7.
Many local authorities in flooded parts of Western Japan exaggerated last October's hayoo in their reports to receive a bigger rehabilitation grant. Government inspectors alleged. The inspectors stated that bridges reported to have been washed away were still standing, and sturdy enough apart from natural wear and tear. Some authorities had even gone so far as to "camouflage" new bridges to make the inspectors think they needed rebuilding, they said. The inspectors said at least 666 million yen (\$66,600,000) could be cut immediately from the 63,000 million yen (\$6,300,000,000) national floods subsidy.—Reuter.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

New York, Jan. 7.
Stocks softened late today craning most of the gains achieved so far in the New Year.

The market moved narrowly on reduced volume as traders held back awaiting President Eisenhower's State of the Union message to Congress.

Wall Street interpreted the message as optimistic and hence not unfavourable for the stock market.

They attributed the late reaction to the fact that both industrial and rail groups had been carried to a strong resistance level. Market men had anticipated industrialists would have difficulty breaking through the 284 level.

Today's decline carried industrialists down \$1.33 to 282.00. Rails were carried down 32 cents. Utilities lost one cent.

In contrast to yesterday's, when, despite a slight drop in the averages more stocks closed higher than lower, 498 of the 1,157 issues traded today were lower. There were 382 higher, 277 unchanged.

Texas Pacific Land Trust fell sharply in the oils, losing 3/4 points. Cities Service dropped 1/2. Amerasia, Lion Oil and Texas Gulf Producing, however, added around a point.

Aircraft fell, with United Douglas, Boeing and Bendix all down around a point. General Electric lost a point in its group. Volume totalled 1,540,000 shares.

The NY Stock Exchange bond volume was \$3,035,000. The American Stock Exchange volume was 440,000 shares.—United Press.

Daw Jones spot commodity price index: 177.52
Moody's commodities: 418.4

Singapore Rubber Market

Singapore, Jan. 7.
The market opened better on overseas advices and steadied later in the afternoon, on some trade demands. Prices:

No. 1 rubber per lb. Jan.	87 1/2-87 3/4
February	87 1/2-87 3/4
March	87 1/2-87 3/4
April	87 1/2-87 3/4
May	87 1/2-87 3/4
June	87 1/2-87 3/4
July	87 1/2-87 3/4
August	87 1/2-87 3/4
September	87 1/2-87 3/4
October	87 1/2-87 3/4
November	87 1/2-87 3/4
December	87 1/2-87 3/4
Spot unbleached	87 1/2-87 3/4

LONDON MARKET

London, Jan. 7.
The rubber market was full steady with No. 1 RSS spot priced 17 1/4 pence per lb. Prices:

No. 1 RSS spot	17 1/4-17 1/2
Settlement house term	17 1/4-17 1/2
February	17 1/4-17 1/2
March	17 1/4-17 1/2
April	17 1/4-17 1/2
May	17 1/4-17 1/2
June	17 1/4-17 1/2
July	17 1/4-17 1/2
August	17 1/4-17 1/2
September	17 1/4-17 1/2
October	17 1/4-17 1/2
November	17 1/4-17 1/2
December	17 1/4-17 1/2

New York Sugar Futures

New York, Jan. 7.
World No. 6 sugar futures today closed unchanged to one point higher with sales of 100 contracts. Domestic No. 6 sugar futures closed 2 points higher to one point lower with sales of 301 contracts. Future closings—

Contract No. 4 (world)	32 1/2
March	32 1/2
July	32 1/2
September	32 1/2
December	32 1/2
Contract No. 6 (world)	32 1/2
March	32 1/2
July	32 1/2
September	32 1/2
December	32 1/2

New York Cotton Market

New York, Jan. 7.
Cotton futures moved irregularly higher today for the fourth session in a row with trading unspectacularly brisk.

President Eisenhower's message to Congress on the State of the Union aligned with expectations and little market influence.

Traders were disposed to await the additional executive's messages on the new farm programme, to be delivered on Monday, and the ensuing radio address by Agriculture Secretary Mr. Benson on Monday night on the Administration farm policy.

The President advocated a farm programme based on flexible, rather than rigid high price supports, and assured farmers against any "abrupt" drop in support levels. Pending more details on farm programme, traders' interest turned back to the original run of trade flows.

Entries for the week ended December 31 reached 195,765 bales, or about 5,000 bales less than the previous week. The net stock of 1953 crop cotton now under the loan shelter was reported at 5,499,091 bales, plus 1,12,723 bales from the 1952 crop.—United Press.

London Metal Prices

London, Jan. 7.
Prices in US cents per lb.—United Press.

Tin spot	83 1/2
8-month	83 1/2
Copper spot	21 1/2
3-month	21 1/2
Lead Jan.	20 1/2
April	20 1/2
June	20 1/2
August	20 1/2
October	20 1/2
December	20 1/2
sterling per long ton—United Press.	

NEW YORK FUTURES

New York, Jan. 7.
Prices in US cents per lb.—United Press.

Lead	20 1/2
Jan.	20 1/2
Feb.	20 1/2
Mar.	20 1/2
Apr.	20 1/2
May	20 1/2
June	20 1/2
July	20 1/2
Aug.	20 1/2
Sept.	20 1/2
Oct.	20 1/2
Nov.	20 1/2
Dec.	20 1/2

CHICAGO GRAIN PRICES

Chicago, Jan. 7.
Prices per bushel in cents—United Press.

Wheat, No. 2, red	100 1/2
March	100 1/2
July	100 1/2
September	100 1/2
December	100 1/2
Wheat, No. 2, yellow	99 1/2
March	99 1/2
July	99 1/2
September	99 1/2
December	99 1/2
Wheat, No. 3, red	98 1/2
March	98 1/2
July	98 1/2
September	98 1/2
December	98 1/2

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Page 10

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1954.

SHEAFFER'S
Skrip

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Stella On Her Own

BUSES rumbled in solemn procession into the courtyard before Victoria station, like scarlet delegates, short of breath, to some great, pointless meeting.

The evening crowds streamed into the station, as if drawn there by suction. On a street-corner, in all the bustle, a girl said good-bye to a boy.

She saw the boy away and waved him out of sight. There was no drama in their parting. She would see him again next day, or on the day after.

But now the girl, a pretty 22-year-old with her dark hair pulled to the back of her head and tied with a ribbon, had only herself for company, and she did not care for that.

ESCAPE-RECAPTURE

SHE began to waver to other people passing by—state police, stockbrokers hurrying towards their country homes, and humble men who knew they would have to do the washing-up after supper.

From across the street, a policeman had been watching the girl, whose name was Stella. He dodged the ponderous buses and walked across. "I'm going to arrest you," he said to her, "for using insulting behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace."

Stella did not wait to hear the end of the sentence. She bolted. The policeman caught up with her. "Your behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace," he said, between breaths.

INSULTED

NEXT morning, at Bow Street, Stella was charged with the crime, and pleaded not guilty before the Chief Magistrate, Sir Laurence Dunne.

"Any questions?" Sir Laurence asked her, when the policeman had told his story.

"What do you mean?" Stella snapped, as though she had been insulted.

"Do you understand what a question is?" Sir Laurence asked patiently.

"Course," Stella said. She had no questions to ask, but she did have things to say on her own behalf.

"Would you like to give your evidence on oath in the witness-box?"

"I can say it from here," Stella said from the dock.

CHEEKY

"I've got a friend," she said. "His name's Stephen. I've known him three or four years. Well, I said good-bye to him, and then a man came up and tried to grab me on, so naturally I pulled a funny face."

She stopped there, and waited as if hopeful of a little praise for her strategy. No praise came, so she continued her story.

"This man began to get cheeky," Stella went on. "I'm not going to have men coming up to me, and not tell them off, would you?" Again expectantly, she waited, but there was no comment.

"Have you seen her about often?" Sir Laurence asked the policeman.

"In the last fortnight, yes."

"But I live near Victoria. Of course I've seen about," Stella protested.

THE LOOK

"Do you do any work?" the Chief Magistrate asked her.

"I do, as a rule, work in hotels, but I'm staying with a friend at the moment. I'll get another job in a couple of weeks. I'm having a holiday, you might say."

"Well, I should get a job, if I were you," Sir Laurence advised. "Pay 10s. now, and before you go, I should have a word with Miss Hamilton, the probation officer."

"All right," Stella said, obligingly, and before she tripped off she treated the court to a gleeful, provocative look that took in all the public gallery. Elsewhere, such a look might have led to anything, a breach of the peace, perhaps. In Bow Street it led nowhere.

On An Urgent Mission

Khartoum, Jan. 7. Khidir Kamad, the Secretary General of the National Unionist Party, flew to Cairo today on an "urgent mission." It is believed that he will discuss the new Sudanese Cabinet's policy with the Egyptian Government.

Isma'il El Azhari said later that he hoped to form his Cabinet on Friday evening.

He was received this morning by the Governor-General, Sir Robert Howe, who formally appointed him Prime Minister of the Sudan.

Major Salah Salem, the Egyptian Minister of National Guidance, and General Abdel Hakim Amer, Egyptian Army Commander and Minister of State for Sudan affairs, is expected here on Saturday.

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COMMONWEALTH FINANCE TALKS OPEN TODAY

Sydney, Jan. 8.

The Commonwealth Finance Ministers will meet in conference here today to plan measures to counter a possible recession in the United States and simultaneously to continue developing the sterling area's resources.

Mr Robert Menzies, Australia's Prime Minister, will preside at the one week private talks. They will be on the financial, economic and trading policies of the sterling area, the world's largest monetary group with an annual export-import turnover of about £12,000,000,000.

At the conference table with him will be Mr Richard Butler, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and finance representatives of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the new Central African Federation, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Canada, the only Commonwealth nation in the dollar area.

Decisions of the conference to some extent will be hampered by the fact that the report of the Randall commission, set up by President Eisenhower to chart United States foreign trade practices, will not be published for several weeks.

Mr Butler is expected to urge his colleagues to press on with agricultural and development plans despite any temporary trade setbacks and regardless of any revision of United States foreign economic policy.

PROGRESS IN 1953

Despite lower prices which must be expected for Commonwealth dollar earners like rubber, tin, jute, wool and other primary products, almost every Commonwealth territory can report some progress during 1953.

Ceylon and Pakistan remain with the most unsettled economies in the sterling area and with small prospect of any great improvement during this year.

But India's delegates are reported to be optimistic about prospects in the belief that inflation has been halted.

New Zealand has begun to feel the effect of lower export prices but her delegates are not alarmed.

Australia, however, points to an increasing stability in her economic structure which only a series of bad years for wool sales could disrupt.

Canada and South Africa will also be able to report an increasing prosperity.—China Mail Special.

Convinced Of Woman's Innocence

Washington, Jan. 7

An anonymous benefactor put up a \$10,000 cash bond today for Mrs Mamie Landis, attractive wife of the Negro government worker accused of engineering the \$100,000 Treasury vault theft.

He said he was convinced of her innocence and wanted to reward her father, who provided the information that broke the case.

Mrs Landis was arrested with her husband, James Rufus Landis, 29, who allegedly took two packages containing 8,000 crisp new \$20 bills from the US Bureau of Engraving last New Year's Eve and replaced them with currency-sized blank paper.

The loss was discovered when an alert employee noticed the substitute packages were too light. Six suspects have been arrested and most of the money recovered, despite a wild spending orgy in which the principals passed a part of the "hot" money.

The \$10,000 bond for Mrs Landis, who denies complicity in the theft, was delivered by Douglas Smith, a local banker.

He said only that the money was put up by a client of his bank who was also a neighbour of William Phillips, an executive of the Chase National Bank, on whose suburban Virginia farm the alleged thieves tried to hide part of the money.—United Press.

Seawalls Hold Against Big Tide

London, Jan. 7.

The year's first big tide swept against lowland and seawalls today, but North Sea gales subsided, sparing the beleaguered coasts from floods like those that killed nearly 2,000 persons a year ago.

Winds from the North had piled water as much as two feet above normal level early today, while coastal authorities prepared for the first of the tides that will test dyke defences.

At noon the wind-lashed waves had dropped a foot. In smog-flecked air, when high tide swept ashore, the defences held firm. Lowlanders relaxed until an even higher tide rolls in tomorrow.

Dykes and seawalls were believed able to withstand the peak tides so long as the North-west winds remain below gale level. Forecasters said there was no indication of new dangerous winds in the 12 hours beginning at midnight, but future conditions appear unsettled.

A nor-wester transformed an ordinary tide into floods which battered North and Baltic Sea coasts on Sunday, forcing thousands from their homes. Repairs were completed before the new assault came.—United Press.

NO MENTION OF BIRTHDAY

Moscow, Jan. 8.

Soviet newspapers made no mention of Prime Minister Mikoyan's 52nd birthday today and there were no signs that the day would be publicly celebrated here or elsewhere in the Soviet Union.

(This is in conformity with the long-standing Soviet practice of ignoring routine anniversaries of birthdays.) Even Stalin's birthday was normally mentioned by the radio stations of the Soviet Union and Tass. An exception was Stalin's 70th birthday, celebrated by the whole Communist world.—Reuters.

Must Release Prisoners

Tokyo, Jan. 8.

The Far East commander, General John E. Hull, in a letter to the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, has reaffirmed United Nations opposition to a resumption of explanations and reiterated that prisoners not yet repatriated must be released at midnight on January 22.

General Hull said it was "extremely improbable" that a political conference of the Korean belligerents would convene before January 22, and that the command saw "no justification" for discussing the future of prisoners with any other agency.

United Nations Command Headquarters here said the letter, which was in reply to several UNRRC questions, had been delivered to the Commission chairman, Indian Lieutenant-General K. S. Thimayya, on January 6 but had not been released because of a "secret" classification placed on it.

However, the Communists had broadcast the text last night and the Allied Command could no longer withhold publication.—Reuters.

Five Diplomats Resign

Cairo, Jan. 7.

Five Egyptian diplomats stationed abroad have sent in their resignations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to authoritative sources today.

They are the minister in Stockholm, Madhat Zaidat, the minister in Belgrade, Wafiq Rostom, the representative on the Somali commission, Mohammed Hamdi, the minister in Addis Ababa, Iskander Wahbi, and the minister in Brussels, Hussein Raghi.—France Press.

What's Her Lie? Solution LAURENCE COMPANION London People Service.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I thought you'd like to watch me, Mother, to see just how modern babies are handled!"

Magistrate's Advice To Quarrellers

"Smilingly phone the Police when there is any trouble," Mr Hin-shing Lo advised two women who had fought over a public water tap in Shaui-wan, at Central Court this morning.

The women, who had done battle over their respective rights at the public tap, looked very chagrined when they pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct by fighting and were fined \$25 each.

CASTELO TO APPEAR IN COURT

Manila, Jan. 8.

Former Justice and Defence Secretary Oscar Castelo last night said he would appear before arraignment proceedings in nearby Pasay city court this morning on murder charges in connection with the June 15 killing of Senate star witness Manuel Montoy.

Castelo said he was appearing in court today against doctor's orders to avoid the impression that "I am using delatatory tactics." He added that he requested his attorneys to ask the court for a speedy trial "because my conscience is clear and God knows I am innocent."

Castelo's statement came after V. Luna Hospital physicians yesterday declared that Castelo was physically fit for arraignment today.

Castelo was 15 others among the two women, his sister and Adelaida Reyes, alias Mrs Castelo. They were named defendants in the brutal slaying last June 15 of the Senate star witness against Castelo for bribery and extortion charges. Castelo was the most powerful figure in the past Quirino administration cabinet.—France Press.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T.

6. Time Signal and Programme Summary; 6.30 Contact Radio Hongkong for the Rising Generation with News, Views, Interviews, Stories & Music; 7.00 Produced by Rosemary Richards (Studio) Gulliver's Travels (BBCRS) by Dean Swift, Part 3; 7.15 Ballads and the Flowers (Studio) Time Ballads with Sydney Thompson and his Orch. (BBCRS); 7.30 Weather Report; 7.45 Time Signal and World News (London Relay); 7.50 News Talk (London Relay) or Special Announcements; 8.15 Report on the Royal Tour (London Relay recorded previous night); 7.30 "Twenty Questions" from the "Concert Hall of Radio Hongkong" Master: Patrick Butler. The Team: Anne Marston, Faith Butler, John Little, Richard Brown, and the Flowers (BBCRS); 8.30 Music to Serve; 8.45 "Looking Back" programme; 9.00 Time Signal, Music (Studio); 9.15 Classical Requests; 9.30 News; 9.45 "Your Future Motoring" introduced by Jack Hays (BBCRS); 10.00 Roundabout; 10.30 Weather Report; 11.00 Time Signal and World News (London Relay); 11.15 Goodnight Music; 11.30 Close down.

Mr. P. F. Fiskman has been appointed to be a Member of the Committee to administer the Mercantile Marine Assistance Fund of Hongkong with effect from January 1, 1954. It was announced in the Government Gazette this morning.

HKRNVR Promotions Gazetted

The following promotions in the Hongkong Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve of the Royal Hongkong Defence Force were announced in the Government Gazette this morning:

Lt. R.B. Wood, to be Lieutenant-Commander, to date July 1, 1953; Lt. (S) M. Daniel to be Lieutenant-Commander (S) to date January 1, 1954; Probationary Sub-Lieutenant C.G. Fairbairn to be confirmed in rank with original seniority of Jan. 1, 1953; and promoted to Lieutenant to date July 1, 1953; Sub-Lieutenant (Sp) Robert Fairbairn to be Lieutenant (Sp) to date July 1, 1953; Sub-Lieutenant (Sp) H. Torrance to be Lieutenant (Sp) to date January 1, 1954; A/B B.G.W. Weldon to be Sub-Lieutenant (Sp) to date January 1, 1954; L/S M. Morley-John to be Probationary Sub-Lieutenant to date January 1, 1954; A/B B.G.W. Weldon to be Sub-Lieutenant (Sp) to date January 1, 1954; L/S M. Morley-John to be Probationary Sub-Lieutenant to date January 1, 1954; A/B B.G.W. Weldon to be Sub-Lieutenant (Sp) to date January 1, 1954. Acting Commissioned Boat-swain R.E. Jones has been confirmed in rank with original seniority of October 1, 1952.

Government Appointments

The following appointments have been announced in the Government Gazette this morning:

Mr W. F. Kerr to be Assistant Accountant-General with effect from December 25, last; Mr W. D. A. Tucker to be Engineer of Public Works Department, at probation, with effect from September 7, 1953; Mr W. H. E. College to be Chief Executive Officer, with effect from October 9, 1953; and Mr Charles Edward Hulse to act as Senior Marine Officer, with effect from December 26, 1953.

WOMAN Awards To HK Police Officers

Tears rolled down a woman's cheeks as she thrust her hands through the bars of the dock and showed Mr Hin-shing Lo huge work blisters on the palms of her hands, at Central this morning.

"I'm a working woman," she sobbed, when her virtue was questioned by the Police.

The woman, Poon Choi-han, 26, of an unnumbered hut in Shaui-wan, vehemently denied having loitered in Queen's Road East near Garden Road last night.

Insp. W. E. B. Howell, Prosecuting Officer, told the Court that defendant was kept under observation for 20 minutes and was seen to walk arm in arm with a European before she was arrested.

Poon protested and said that she had been going home. She was remanded for 24 hours and was offered \$100 bail.

3 Weeks For Missing His Ship

For failing to rejoin his ship, Halvor Storhell, 22-year-old Norwegian seaman of the mv Tai Yin, was sentenced to three weeks' hard labour by Mr A. G. Parker at the Marine Court this morning, despite the ship's agent's request to have him put on another ship due here in a few days' time.

Passing sentence, Mr Parker said that the evidence showed that defendant deserted the ship purposely, and that if he were to be imprisoned only for a few days it would not be the proper punishment for him.

Sub-Insp. B.T. Brodie, prosecuting, said that defendant was a seaman signed on board the Tai Yin. He failed to rejoin the ship which sailed at 6 p.m. on December 18, last year. The usual notice regarding the time of the departure of the ship had been posted up on a board. At 4 p.m. yesterday, defendant was arrested inside the office of the ship's agent. Defendant had visited the office on December 15 and had asked for his passport back. He revealed at the same time that he wanted to leave the ship.

Sub-Insp. Brodie further said that the ship's agent had asked whether it was possible for the defendant to be allowed to join another of the company's ships which would arrive on January 11.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following have been appointed to be Members of the Board of Education for one year, with effect from January 1, 1954. It was announced in the Government Gazette this morning:

The Hon. the Director of Education (Chairman), Dr. Ho, B. N. Chan, Mr. Rev. R. O. Hall, the Hon. Ngan Sheng-kwan, the Hon. Duan J. Rutong-lee, Lt.-Col. H.B.L. Donbridge, the Rev. F. Cronin, Mrs. Ellen Li Shu-pui, Prof. K. E. Priestley, Mr. Teung Tso Lai-ki, Mrs. Yeoh Chay Wai-han, Mr. Donohoe, Mr. H. K. Kadoria, Mr. J. Finnie, Mr. W. N. Thomas, Mr. F. X. d'Almeida e Castro, Dr. F. R. Ashton, Mr. Wan Li-shing, Mr. Lam Chi-fung and Dr. Lin Dao-yang.

The secretary is to be appointed by the Hon. the Director of Education.

"Safety First" Admonition

"Safety first, young man," Mr Hin-shing Lo told 21-year-old Cheong Shu-wing, who appeared before him at Central this morning, on charges of driving a motor-cycle without a licence and breach of a bond. Cheong pleaded guilty and was fined \$20 or 10 weeks.

He was arrested last night at Yee Wo Street, Wan-chai, near the Royal Theatre, when he was driving a motor-cycle. He was fined \$20 or 10 weeks.

The following awards to members of the Hongkong Police Force have been authorised by His Excellency the Governor. It was announced in the Government Gazette this morning:

SECOND BAR TO COLONIAL POLICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

Cantonese Contingent—Sergeant-Major Lau Fook, Staff Sergeant Lau Hon, Staff Sergeant So Hung.

Wei Hei Wei Contingent—Sergeant 2505 Nieh Hien-sueh, Sergeant 2010 Liang Chen-ai.

FIRST BAR TO COLONIAL POLICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

European Contingent—Inspector M. M. Clark, Sub-Inspector F. H. Woods.

Cantonese Contingent—Corporal 2512 Cheung Wan-shing, Corporal 2525 Chang Wan-shi, Constable 2501 Sung Wan-shan, Constable 2579 Ku Yuen-tung.

COLONIAL POLICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

European Contingent—Inspector R. F. G. White, Sub-Inspector W. G. S. Jones, Sub-Inspector C. Pope.

Cantonese Contingent—Sergeant-Major Lo Siu-ki, Sergeant 309 Chan Kam-fat, Sergeant 303 Lau-yau, Sergeant 186 Wong-shui, Sergeant 82 Lam Chai-chau, Sergeant 684 Cheung Wah-ai, Sergeant 580 Yau So, Corporal 308 Kam Kai-wah, Corporal 648 Wan Tai Yin, Sergeant 539 Leung Chi, Corporal 672 Yeung Koon-yang, Corporal 681 Cheung Yap, Constable 604 Wu Wai-tai, Constable 554 Lau Fuk, Constable 609 Ho Kwok-yuen, Constable 542 To Shiu-kyong, Constable 675 Chan Yiu, Constable 689 Chan Wah-yam, Constable 3474 Lam Sau, Constable 3540 Cheung Hoi-sang.

Wei Hei Wei Contingent—Sergeant 657 Fung Hing, Sergeant 2672 Hsieh Li-wing, Sergeant 2725 Shou Heng-kung, Corporal 2786 Che Hui-shun, Constable 2513 Tsung Hui-wah, Constable 2724 Wong Shu-ching, Constable 2728 Lui Po-shin.

Pakistani Contingent—Sergeant 3093 Mohammed Din, Constable 3091 Ahmed Khan.

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered articles only. The latest times for unregistered articles are shown in italics. The latest times for registered articles are shown in bold type. The latest times for unregistered articles are shown in italics. The latest times for registered articles are shown in bold type. The latest times for unregistered articles are shown in italics.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.; India-China, 5 p.m.; New South Wales, New Zealand, 6 p.m.; Malaysia, Indonesia, 5 p.m.

Thailand, 5 p.m.; Singapore, 5 p.m.; Philippines, 5 p.m.; Hong Kong, 5 p.m.; Burma, India, Ceylon, 5 p.m.; Siam, 5 p.m.; Malaya, 5 p.m.; East Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 5 p.m.

Formosa, 5 p.m.; Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.; Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.; China, People's Republic 3.30 p.m.; Ceylon, Pakistan, Noon.

Formosa, 5 p.m.; Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.; Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, 6 p.m.; India-China, 5 p.m.; China, People's Republic, 5 p.m.; Malaysia, 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

By Air: Japan, U.S.A. & Canada, New Zealand, 6 p.m.; India-China, 5 p.m.; Formosa, 5 p.m.

Committed For Trial

Private Samuel Brown, 31, of 1st Battalion, King's Regiment, of County Kerry, North Ireland, was committed for trial in the District Court at 11 a.m. today on charges of driving a motor-cycle without a licence and breach of a bond. He was committed for trial on January 10, 1954.